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ARCHDIOCESE OF TUAM

# NEW DAWN

ISSUE 9 AUTUMN 2014 €4

# YEAR DRAWS TO A CLOSE



**Song of joy in Tuam**



**Big plans for Knock**



**Ordination of Fr Seán**



Martin King, Weather Man

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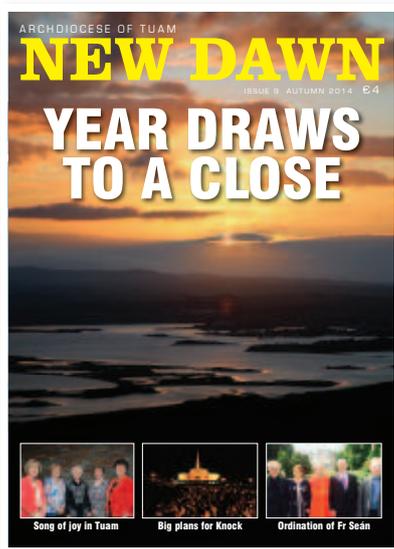
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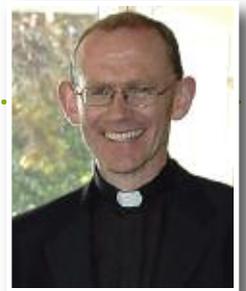
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# WELCOME



**T**he colourful season of mists and mellow fruitfulness is upon us again as we reflect and look back this harvest time. Thank God for the beautiful Summer of 2014! The glorious weather was ideal for outdoor religious events, many of which are captured in this Autumn edition of New Dawn.

The new Diocesan Pastoral Council, whose magazine this is are well underway since their formation in Spring. We wish the new chairperson Ms Mary Trench and all the Council well in all their work over the next few years.

Since the first of September the diocese has the privilege of welcoming a new Diocesan Youth Director, Ms Siobhán Bradley. Siobhán has already worked in this capacity in Galway diocese and spent the last year in Ballintubber Abbey. We also wish her well and thank the outgoing Youth Director Ms Trish O'Brien who did Trojan and pioneering work in this area over the past two years.

2014 has been a good year on the vocations front with three young men starting seminary in St Patrick's College, Maynooth and quite a number of others continuing the process of discernment. We keep them, our now five seminarians and all those considering a vocation to priesthood or religious life in the prayers!

Tá sé deacair a chreidiúnt go bhfuil sé os cionn ráithe ó seoladh an Iris ar an gCeathrú Rua. Bhí árd-óiche againn ag tús an tSamhraidh agus táimid fíor-bhuíoch don choiste áitiúil as ucht an fháilte chroíúil a chur siad romhainn.

Huge work has begun at the National Shrine to Our Lady in Knock with the major renovations planned for the Basilica and for the revamp of the Faith Formation Programmes, Witness to Hope. Some of the great work that goes on at the National Shrine and the plans for the future are documented in this, the ninth edition of New Dawn. We are happy to launch the 9th edition of the New Dawn from there and wish Fr Richard Gibbons, PP and his team every good wish for the great work planned there.

A word of sincere thanks to the many people who continue to contribute in many ways to make New Dawn what it is. David Harkin is a tower of strength in the work he does in proofing the magazine in succession to Seán Staunton who has retired from the editorial board due to ill health. A huge thank you to Seán for all the enormous work he has done at editorial board level and in Westport and we keep him in the prayers at this difficult time of illness.

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Cuan Chasla, Conamara, taken by Fr Stephen Farragher on the night of the last launch in Carraroe.

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## REQUEST FOR FEEDBACK

As always, feedback, opinion and reaction are sought and valued. Please let us know what you think about New Dawn and about different issues in your parish and in the diocese. If you would like any events covered as a feature or news item, we would love to hear from you.

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Disclaimer: It is the policy of this Diocesan Pastoral Council magazine to promote a diversity of views. The content and opinions expressed in this publication are solely those of the authors of same. They do not necessarily represent the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church; the Archdiocese of Tuam, and/or any other contributor to this publication.



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Trish O'Brien, Helen Monaghan, Marie Browne, Sean McGuire, Yvonne O'Connor, Diarmuid Heneghan, Kate Geraghty, Miriam Judge, Maura Geraghty.



(L-R) Trish O'Brien; Fr Tod Nolan; Kate Geraghty; Maura Geraghty; Diarmuid Heneghan; Sean McGuire; Marie Browne; Yvonne O'Connor; Miriam Judge; Helen Monaghan



Diarmuid Heneghan; Helen Monaghan; Fr Tod Nolan



The Camino 2014 Group from Tuam; at back: Fr Tod Nolan, Diarmuid Heneghan, Sean McGuire, Marie Browne, Maura Geraghty, Helen Monaghan, Kate Geraghty; in front: Miriam Judge, Yvonne O'Connor and Trish O'Brien.



Santiago Sean McGuire

## The Camino 2014

The Camino group this year was made up of ten young and maybe not quite so young adults who ventured off on what can only be described as the experience of a lifetime to Sarria in Northern Spain.

We were there to walk the last 120km of the Camino de Santiago – The Way of St. James – and in so doing to open ourselves up to new experiences, friendships and a deepening of our own faith.

Each day consisted of an early wake-up and a walk of about 18km, an opportunity to gather for prayer or Eucharist and to share our evening meal together. It was a breathtaking experience and each of us came away from it enriched, nourished and renewed.



Photograph courtesy of Fr Micheál Mannion

A historic photograph of priests of the archdiocese of Tuam, along with Archbishop Joseph Walsh, which was taken outside Teach a' tSagairt in Cill Rónain circa 1939; Back row (L to R): Fathers Thomas Concannon, Thomas Burke, Conor Heaney, John Killeen, Gerard Mitchell, Louis Hennelly, Stephen Conneely, C.S.S.R., Thomas Morley, Malachy Eaton, James Fergus, Thomas Martin, Martin Hopkins, Thomas Egan and Father George Quinn. Front row: Fathers James Heaney, John O'Grady, Bernard Eaton, Archbishop Joseph Walsh, Fathers Thomas Killeen, Patrick Joyce and Andrew Moran.

## Sr. Patricia Whyte 1927-2014 RIP

Born in Lavally, Tuam, baptised in Killereen, having strong family links with Clontuskert, Ballinasloe, Sr Patricia Whyte spent much of her life in Tuam, where she was buried on Thursday September 18 last.

Sr Patricia (87) returned to God after a long, healthy and happy life as a Presentation Sister. The huge crowds that turned out for her funeral was a great testimony to her popularity and capacity for friendship.

Ministry as a Presentation Sister brought her to Tuam, Athenry, Headford, Tiernea, Carraroe, Bailieborough, Kilcock and Zambia.

Sr Patricia was well known for her outstanding kindness, good humour, singing ability, culinary skills and most of all for being an outstanding Presentation Sister, prayerful and interested in the pastoral care of all she met.

In her latter years Sr Patricia worked at Archbishop's House where she is so fondly remembered and deeply missed. Sympathies and condolences to her family, the Presentation Congregation and her many, many friends.

Go dtuga Dia leaba i measc na noaimh di!



Sr Patricia Whyte, who passed away recently. RIP.



*Pictured at the launch of Gaelscoil Uileog de Búrca's sponsored climb of Croagh Patrick were Mayo footballer Colm Boyle with members of the Gaelscoil staff and representatives from Cúram Claremorris and the Parents Association.*

## Gaelscoil scales the heights

The Gaelscoil Uileog de Búrca Annual Sponsored Croagh Patrick Climb took place on Saturday, June 21 last.

It has been the custom of the school to donate part of the funds collected to charity and this year Cúram Claremorris was chosen.

"For the past 25 years we have relied on the generosity of parents, the wider Claremorris community and local businesses to help in our fund-raising efforts," said Máire Uí Dhinéide, Principal of Gaelscoil Uileog de Búrca in Claremorris.

"We are delighted to be associated with Cúram which provides a wide range of services for family, individuals and groups. This is our way of saying 'Mile Buíochas' to all who have and continue to support our school," Máire added.

The Sponsored Climb was officially launched by Mayo Senior Footballer, Colm Boyle at the school on May 21. At the launch Colm said he was delighted to be part of this fundraising effort and encouraged all the parents, their friends and work colleagues to join in on the climb and make a small donation to the school on the day.

All climbers' names were entered into a draw for a Calor Mini-BBQ. Parents, teachers and pupils were joined by Anne Ronayne of 'Ireland's Fittest Family' fame in the sponsored climb of Croagh Patrick. In all, 55 adults and children – including members of the Cúram Committee, took part in the climb in splendid weather conditions. After the arduous trek was completed, representatives from the Gaelscoil's Parents Association had prepared refreshments at the rear of Campbell's Pub in Murrisk for the weary participants and entertainment for the children.



### Our three new seminarians

New seminarians who have started their studies in Maynooth: Shane Costello from Taugheen, Ronan Armstrong from Claremorris and Joseph Gormally from Milltown. Meanwhile, Gerard Quirke from Tuam and Aidan Gallagher from Louisburgh have both now started their pastoral year in Castlebar and Westport.

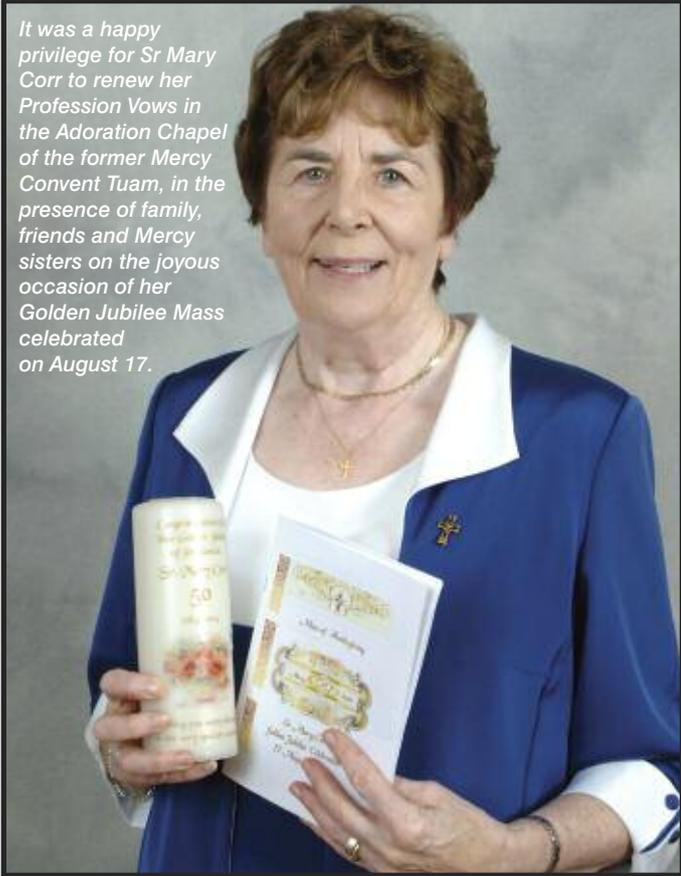


### CONTACT US

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Please keep in touch with updates on [www.tuamarchdiocese.org](http://www.tuamarchdiocese.org)

*It was a happy privilege for Sr Mary Corr to renew her Profession Vows in the Adoration Chapel of the former Mercy Convent Tuam, in the presence of family, friends and Mercy sisters on the joyous occasion of her Golden Jubilee Mass celebrated on August 17.*



*ABOVE:  
Dunmore parishioners celebrate Mass at the Holy Well in Cappagh in August.*



*RIGHT:  
The Holy Well at Cappagh.*

## **Holy Well celebration**

**H**oly Well at Cappagh, Dunmore saw a wonderful gathering of pilgrims for the annual celebratory Mass on August 17. The occasion was blessed with good weather and all present were delighted to play their part in ensuring that traditions such as this pilgrimage are celebrated.

The attendance was particularly grateful to Parish priest, Fr Fergal Cunnane for his continued interest, support and guidance.

A poem 'The Pattern', written by Mary Connolly, Miltown (nee Mc Loughlin, Carramana), was recited and greatly enjoyed.

## **The Pattern**

BY **MARY CONNOLLY**

A little village nestles at the foot of Slieve Dart hills,  
Where sheep and cattle grazed and drank among the slopes and rills  
The fields are small and rugged some distance from the top,  
Where many people toiled and prayed around this hallowed spot.

By this wild and lovely mountain where brown heather fills each dell,  
St Patrick drank and rested, then prayed and blessed the well.  
This place is called the Pattern, and from an early Christian time,  
People prayed and made a station there, and knelt on sand and grime.

They gathered on a Sunday, the last one in July,  
And prayed to God for favours and grace before they die.  
They had no priests or churches, but had the light of faith,  
They believed in God and Heaven, and a life there after death.

It's forty-five or fifty years since this custom passed away,  
As pilgrims climbed the Reek instead, heard Mass and received that day.  
But the pilgrimage was revived again in July of Seventy-Three,  
When Mass was read and prayers said by this blessed well and tree.

The Pattern is in Cappagh, one mile outside of Dunmore,  
Where Patrick drank and rested, in the ancient days of yore.  
The well is semi-shadowed by a tree, some flags and moss,  
And bears the name since Patrick's time, the Well of the Holy Cross.



*Members of the Tuam Cathedral Choir who have each given 40 years of unbroken service; left to right: Rosaleen O'Connor, Mary Trayers, May Cashman, Nuala Kelly and Mary Duggan.*

*Photo by kind courtesy of Johnny Ryan Photography*

## **Two centuries of singing service**

**I**n 1974, under the auspices of Fr Dominick Grealish (Adm), PJ Grealish the Musical Director, Fr Seamus Cunnane and organist Sr Marguerite Togher, the Tuam Cathedral Choir was reformed after an inactive spell.

The first engagement for the choir was a Mass from the Bon Secours Hospital at the Grove which was broadcast on RTE radio. Up to the present day, the choir practices each Thursday evening and sings at Mass every Sunday morning, at annual confirmations and visits to Knock Shrine as well as at many other events in the church calendar.

Over the years there have been many changes in personnel, but the five ladies above are rightly very proud to have reached this milestone.



The group from Headford who received medals and pins to recognise their commitment to the Pioneer Total Abstinence Association over the past 60, 50 and 25 years. Pictured are: back row (L to R): Fr Ray Flaherty, Martha Hennelly, Mary Joyce, Mary Greaney, Frank O'Connor, Vinny O'Reilly, Christy O'Connor, Andy Curran, Aidan O'Malley. Front row: Mattie Scales, John King, Shelia Mannion, Ina Curran, Nora O'Malley, Mary Cooper, Kathleen Mulroe, John Cooper.



## New Dawn launch in Carraroe

The 8th edition of New Dawn, the diocesan magazine, was launched in Halla na Scoile, Scoil Mhic Dara in Carraroe on Wednesday May 28 last by Joe Connolly, Galway hurling winning captain of 1980.

Trena Lynch of the Diocesan Pastoral Council was MC and a great crowd attended the launch. As usual, New Dawn was filled with many articles about spirituality, theology, history, sports, current affairs as well as the many events happening in the Archdiocese and further afield.

Carraroe was the featured parish and among the thought-provoking articles were a piece on the upcoming same sex marriage referendum by Prof Eamonn Conway and an article on the permanent diaconate by Dr Enda Lyons. Because the launch was in the Gaeltacht, there were naturally a number of articles as Gaeilge.

At just €4 New Dawn is always a great read and not to be missed! Pictures of the launch are by kind courtesy of Fr Stephen Farragher, PP, Ballyhaunis.

## Seoladh – Iris leabhar na Deoise – “New Dawn”

Seoladh Iris leabhar Árd-Dheoise Thuama, “New Dawn” (an t-ochtú eagrán) ag 8.00 i.n. i Halla Scoil Mhic Dara ar an gCeathrú Rua ar an gCeadaoin 28ú Bealtaine. Joe Connolly, laoch iomána na Gaillimhe a sheol an iris. Bhí Joe ina chaptín ar fhoireann iomána na Gaillimhe i 1980 agus is as Paróiste an Chillín a mhuintir, Trá Bháin agus Tír an Fhia. Tríona Bn Uí Chonghaile as An Trá Bháin a bhí mar bhean an tí don ócáid. Tá Tríona ina ball de Choiste Tréadach na Deoise. Bhí an tÁrd-easpag Michéal Ó Nearaí i láthair freisin agus bhí an tAthair Ciarán de Bláca, SP, An Chillín i láthair chomh maith le Coiste Tréadach an Pharóiste ag cuir fáilte romhainn ar an oíche. Bhí roinnt mhaith altanna as Gaeilge san eagrán seo le altanna speisialta ar obair eaglasta atá ar siúl ar an gCeathrú Rua, Paróiste an Chillín. Bhí an iris ar díol ar an 7ú agus 8ú Meitheamh ins na paróistí éagsúla.

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*Sr Catherine Buckley, who passed away in August of this year. RIP.*

## Sister Catherine Buckley, D.C. (1942-2014)

BY **SR CAITRIONA MCSWEENEY**

**S**r Catherine Buckley was a member of the Daughters of Charity community at St Mary's Hostel in Knock. She was also a member of the Tuam Diocesan Pastoral Council.

Catherine was born near Macroom, Co. Cork and had a farming background. She trained as a Home Economics teacher and continued in that field for the greater part of her life as a Daughter of Charity.

Sr Catherine's final appointment was to the service of pilgrims at St Mary's, Knock. Her smile and caring attitude endeared her to the many guests whom she remembered by name. During Lent and Advent Catherine also gave of her time in the Prayer Guidance Centre at the Shrine.

Catherine had a great love for the garden and spent her spare time nurturing plants and flowers. The feel of the earth was very dear to her and she would refuse any protection for her hands.

In 2010 Sr Catherine was invited to become a member of the first Tuam Diocesan Pastoral Council as the representative of the religious living in the diocese. She embraced this challenge with interest and enthusiasm and as a member she planned inspiring liturgies for the meetings of the Council. She contributed to the launch of the first edition of *New Dawn* and looked forward to the new editions with interest.

During her time with the Diocesan Pastoral Council she was diagnosed with Motor Neuron Disease and gradually she lost her ability to speak. She continued for a time to communicate by the written word.

At her funeral Mass, Archbishop Neary referred to the very positive contribution made by Sr Catherine in spite of her growing disability.

As her illness progressed, Sr Catherine was finally deprived of the gift of communication. She remained very resigned and peaceful. Many of the tributes paid to her referred to the fact

that through her silence and acceptance she gave witness and touched so many people in an inspiring way.

This was linked to the silent presence of Our Blessed Lady when she appeared in Knock; also to St Catherine Labouré who is known as the 'Saint of Silence.' Sr Catherine no doubt will have received comfort from these reflections, and also sharing the name Catherine.

The great number of mourners at Sr. Catherine's funeral who came from far and near, was a witness, not only to her popularity but to the many ways she gave herself so generously and joyfully.

Catherine spent her final days in the St Francis Hospice in Raheny where she tuned in to the 2014 Knock Novena by means of her iPad. It seems God and Catherine had a plan to meet in Heaven within a few hours of the close of this year's Novena.

St Catherine passed away peacefully at St Francis Hospice, Raheny, Dublin on August 23rd 2014.

May her gentle soul rest in peace.

# A holy mountain and holy island:



# a tale of two Irish pilgrimages

BY **FR EAMONN CONWAY**

**T**he Lough Derg pilgrimage could well owe the fact that it still exists to our own Croagh Patrick.

In the twelfth century, Croagh Patrick was more popular and important as a place of pilgrimage than St Patrick's Purgatory, Lough Derg (pictured above). In fact, it probably

had a purgatory of its own associated with it; a cave in which pilgrims spent time fasting, doing penance and battling with their demons. Certainly, Joscelin, a monk of Furness Abbey in Lancashire, stated so in the 'Life of St Patrick', which he wrote between 1180 and 1185.

Pilgrims were inspired by the belief that St Patrick had spent forty days and nights on the holy mountain. According to reports, devils appeared to him in the shape of hideously raucous black birds that swooped upon him with savage beaks and claws, only to be put to flight by his famous bell.

A monastic community probably existed at Lough Derg from the fifth to the ninth centuries, the first Abbot being St Davog, a disciple of St Patrick. The Vikings plundered the monastery in 836 and Irish Chieftains destroyed it in 1070 and again in 1111.

In 1111, at the Synod of Rath Breasail, Ireland was divided into two ecclesiastical provinces, Armagh and Cashel. Croagh Patrick belonged to the ecclesiastical province of Armagh. However, in 1152, at the Synod of Kells, the archbishoprics of Tuam and Dublin were erected and Croagh Patrick came under the jurisdiction of Tuam.

Now this was unfortunate for Armagh, which had succeeded in being recognized as the primate see, but had lost Ireland's most prestigious pilgrimage site; places of pilgrimage being a source of not just spiritual but also material blessings! It was also embarrassing; the Archbishop of Armagh was, after all, the successor to St Patrick.

It may not be a coincidence then, that the twelfth century was a period of great revival for Lough Derg. Lough Derg lay within the jurisdiction of Armagh and its administration was assigned to the Augustinian Order of Canons Regular, which had founded a major abbey in Armagh at the invitation of St Malachy in the 1140s. The Armagh abbot took overall charge, assigning a Prior to manage the holy island locally. To this day, the priest in charge of Lough Derg is known as the Prior.

In the centuries that followed, the Lough Derg pilgrimage, dedicated to St Patrick and claiming to have been founded by him, attracted pilgrims from all over Europe. Maps of Ireland during those centuries

feature the holy island prominently; in some instances it was the only place featured on the map.

The Reformation took its toll, with total destruction of the island following a decree of 1632. This is why we have so few relics of earlier times, the exception being the humble shaft of St Patrick's Cross, before which pilgrims kneel as they begin their arduous stations. Efforts at suppression continued in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, but pilgrims resisted, and persisted.

A line from Patrick Kavanagh's epic poem on the pilgrimage comes to mind: "The Twentieth Century blows across it now but deeply it has kept an ancient vow." We thank God for Lough Derg and Croagh Patrick, where generations have trod, and continue to do so. We are blessed that both these ancient places of pilgrimage exist to this day, along with others such as Mámeán and relative newcomers like Knock.

We have a responsibility to ensure that the rich tradition associated with them and their immense spiritual benefits are passed on to new generations.

**\*Fr Eamonn Conway, a native of Tuam, is a priest of the Archdiocese and Professor of Religious Studies in U.L.**

*The current Prior Fr Owen J. McEneaney, pictured at the gates of St Patrick's Purgatory Lough Derg.*



## Exhibition evokes Lackagh memories

**A**s part of National Heritage Week 2014, Lackagh Museum and Community Development Association held a well attended photographic exhibition in the new Parish Centre over the weekend of August 22-24.

'Lackagh Parish through the years - A Photographic Exhibition' was a social history of the parish of Lackagh and its people over the past 120 years. The photographs on display were selected from the Museum's own archive, while a number were received from local contributors.

The event was launched by the museum's Heritage Officer, Liam Rabbitte, while parishioners John Joe Duggan, Johnny Forde and Sean McDermott embellished the exhibition with some wonderful old photographs of their own and regaled the attendees with reminiscences of times past.

The black and white images of the Turloughmore teams that won six-in-a-row Galway Senior Hurling titles during the 1960s evoked many memories, while Willie O'Brien's (Turloughmore) faded photograph of the first parish hurling team in 1894 generated particular interest.

The photographs of the Lisheen Town Hall and those who waltzed there also brought back many happy memories, as did old photographs of Teach Mór, standing tall on top of Knockdoe Hill, itself the site of a bloody battle in 1504.

Saturday afternoon's exhibition coincided with an event facilitated by the museum's treasurer, Gerard Naughton along with Paul Greaney in conjunction with the Western Family History Association, entitled "A Beginner's Guide to Family History". Members of the Association were in attendance to advise and guide people researching their ancestors.

A number of those who attended the event had family connections with the Parish and were surprised and delighted to be able to put a face to a name on the family tree thereby enhancing the information gleaned

that day.

After mass on Saturday evening, Irene Guckian and Rónán Regan entertained parishioners with a selection of traditional tunes from their new CD, Drumshanbaws. They were ably accompanied by Katharine Mannion and her father John along with Anna Maher and Emer Whelan.

The Parish's own musical heritage was on display through the photographs of many traditional groups with their cups and trophies, many tutored by former Lackagh National School teacher, Joe Collins. The photographs of a selection of the classes he taught and the classes of many of the other teachers who taught in Bawnmore, Coolarne and Cregmore National Schools over the years generated much nostalgia.

A number of photographs featured the thatched homes of many of those same pupils. Sadly though, some had no option but to later emigrate to foreign shores to find work. The Joyces of Monroe was one such family. Photographs of Tom, John and Michael's new life in Boston were displayed alongside images of their uncle Stephen who was born in 1856 and who emigrated to Dunedin in New Zealand before eventually settling in Sydney, Australia in 1881.

It was timely then that Stephen's great granddaughter, Jules McCue from Hobart, Tasmania should happen to be in Galway to research her Joyce ancestors. The exhibition gave her a unique insight into life in the parish at the time Stephen emigrated.

Jules stayed with Mary K. McDonagh of Monroe, a grand niece of Stephen and met two of her other relations in the Joyce family tree, the aforementioned Paul Greaney and Liam Rabbitte. Who knows but the photographs of their meeting might also feature in future photographic exhibitions of Lackagh Parish through the years!

**This article was written by Lackagh Museum and Community Development Association Committee with special thanks to Gerard McDonagh**



Top photo: Nora O'Brien and her sisters 1920. Photos courtesy of Patsy O'Brien.

Middle photo: Stephen Joyce and his wife Ellen Crane.

Bottom photo: Liam Rabbitte, Jules McCue and Paul Greaney.

*“Our young people are lovely, lovable and loved”*

BY **SIOBHÁN BRADLEY**

This is simply my motto and mission as the new Youth Ministry Director here in the Archdiocese of Tuam. I want every young person to know that they are fully and completely loved by the Lord Jesus Christ just the way they are.

Many young people know about the Lord, but not many know the Lord personally. Many of them are unaware that God loves them beyond their wildest imagination and will lead them to greatness, that although they may appear ordinary in so many ways, their destiny is actually to become extraordinary, and their destiny is to actually change the world.

As a young person myself, I am very conscious of the reality that we are currently living in a very secular, individualistic and virtual world where we have a large segment of our young Catholic faithful struggling to understand their faith. But I believe it is our responsibility as Church to give them the tools to understand their faith so they can embrace it further and become more committed and in love with the Lord.

I believe as a Church, we have so much to offer our young people. As Catholics, we are ambitious. We have high ideals. We like to challenge the impossible and we want to change the world. This is part of our Catholic calling! Pope Francis said it clearly at the prayer vigil during World Youth Day 2013 in Rio De Janeiro,

“Your young hearts want to build a better world... It is the young who want to be the protagonists of change... Through you the future is fulfilled in the world. The mission of the Church is not fulfilled until Christ has been proclaimed to the ends of the earth.” (Matthew 28:19).

Talk about an ambitious Church. We fit right in.

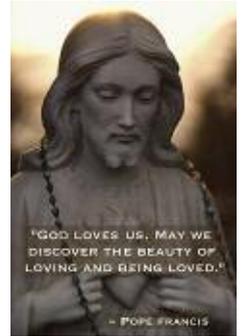
As Catholics, we are curious. We have a desire to know about our world, ourselves and God. We will break our bank accounts to travel to new places to see them first-hand. We like to take on new hobbies, meet new people, try new foods.

The Catholic Church has a depth to it that allows us to keep asking questions... and it also has the answers to the deepest questions of our hearts.

We are passionate. The Catholic faith is founded on self-less love and intentional missionary disciples. When we discover our identity in Christ – our calling to be witnesses in word and action – that same passion, joy and enthusiasm in every area of life is even more real to us because we have the hope of eternal life.

My experience in youth ministry over the past five years is that young people are ready and eager to take up their place in the Church of the present as well as the future. They remain generous in spirit and open and hungry for the truth of the faith and I believe it is vital that as a young role model in the Church, it is part of my responsibility to help them to find that.

\* **Siobhán Bradley** recently became the **Diocesan Youth Director for the Tuam Archdiocese**



## Siobhán is new Youth Director

The appointment of Siobhán Bradley to the post of Diocesan Youth Director for the Archdiocese of Tuam has been announced by Archbishop Michael Neary. Siobhan takes over this job in succession to Ms Trish O'Brien who has been in the role since 2012.

In 2006 a Diocesan Assembly was organized and one of the important areas identified was that of Youth Ministry and one of the recommendations that arose was the appointment of a full time Youth Director at diocesan level.

A native of Ballinasloe, Siobhán studied history and theology in St Patrick's College, Maynooth before studying for a Master's Degree in Theology, specialising in Pastoral Studies, in Maynooth in 2008.

She was Youth Ministry Coordinator in the Galway diocese from 2008-2012 and for the past year has been School Retreat Facilitator in Ballintubber Abbey, Co. Mayo.

Siobhán is a member of Catholic Comment, holds a certificate in Youth Ministry from St Mary's University, Belfast and has a diploma in Pastoral Care and Counselling from the Irish Training and Educational Company.

In addition, she has experience of working with various Liturgy groups, has done suicide intervention and prevention courses, has worked on the Rainbows bereavement programme, as well as being a Childline volunteer.

Archbishop Neary thanked Trish O'Brien for her pioneering work in this area, doing Trojan work setting up structures for Youth Ministry in the Diocese, working closely with the Diocesan Youth Council, setting up the Diocesan Youth Choir and for organizing countless pilgrimages, World Youth Events, John Paul II awards and many other youth gatherings and events around the diocese.

Siobhán can be contacted at 093-52284 or via email at [youth@tuamarchdiocese.org](mailto:youth@tuamarchdiocese.org)

# Casting light on the reality of 'lay people' in the parish

BY REV. DR ENDA LYONS

**A**re there any 'lay people' in your parish? A silly question surely. The answer seems to be obvious; everyone in the parish is a 'lay person', except, of course, the clergy?

However the matter is not at all so simple. The question is not a silly one, nor is the answer just given the correct one. The correct answer would be; 'It depends on what you mean.'

We all know, but we can easily forget it, the term 'lay person' is commonly used outside a church context altogether. In life generally it refers to one who is not a member of a particular profession, an outsider, an amateur as distinct from a professional.

So, for example, in terms of medicine or law, I, a priest, am a 'lay person'; the doctor and lawyer are professionals. Surprising as it may seem, when used in church or parish context, 'lay person' has a different meaning altogether.

The fact is that there are three, and only three, sacraments of insertion into the church or parish. These are Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. To put it simply,

in Baptism we are 'dipped' into the parish; in Confirmation we are confirmed as members; and at Mass we take our place, with Christ, as full members around the parish family table.

Everyone in the parish who has received these basic sacraments, is fully and equally a member of the church and the parish - as fully and equally a member as the even the Pope himself. After all, nothing can be fuller than full. Of course different people will have different roles or functions in the church, as the Pope clearly has, and as the priest in the parish has.

However they are not more fully members than anybody else. It is like a body, a theme dear to the heart of St Paul. If a limb or an organ, no matter how small or how insignificant, is part of the body, it is fully and equally a part of it - as fully and equally as any of the other parts.

To return then, to the term 'lay person'. Obviously in the context of church, that term cannot have the same meaning as it has in secular life. If it had, it would mean that only the clergy (who, after all, are only a very small group in the Church) are professional Christians and that the vast,

vast majority are amateurs! The real 'professional' in the Church is, of course, the dedicated Christian, the true follower of Christ.

In a Church context at least, the word 'lay' comes from the Greek word laos, which means 'people', the people of God. In church terms a so-called 'lay person' is a full member of the New People of God, a professional Christian who professes himself or herself to be such in the profession of faith.

To forget that 'lay person' in Church terms does not at all mean what it means in other contexts is to lose sight of one's great dignity as a fully integrated member of Christ's Body, a full, adult member of the Christian community.

It is to forget that every Christian is an Anointed One, one who has been anointed twice over with Holy Oil, on the head at Baptism and on the forehead at Confirmation. What Pope Leo the Great said, long, long ago, to his congregation at Christmas Mass needs to be heard again today; 'Christian recognise your dignity ... Through the Sacrament of Baptism you have become a temple of the Holy Spirit.'

## *Blueprint for the Church*

**A** major new publication by a priest of the Tuam diocese and contributor to New Dawn is published this month (October). 'Blueprint for the Church – An introduction to The Joy of the Gospel' is written by Fr Eamonn Conway with Irish Catholic journalist, Cathal Barry.

The book serves as an introduction to *Evangelii Gaudium* and is described as "an essential resource for unpacking the Pope's real debut document".

Fr Conway is also Professor of Catholic Theology at Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick. He was an expert adviser at the XIII World Synod of Bishops on the New Evangelisation in Rome in 2012.

His most recent publication was *Priesthood Today: Ministry in a Changing Church*, (Dublin: Veritas 2013).

'Blueprint for the Church – An Introduction to The Joy of the Gospel' is published by The Irish Catholic.

Fr Conway's thought-provoking article on two of Ireland's most renowned pilgrimage sites is featured in this edition of New Dawn.

## *Croagh Patrick climb*



*Archbishop Michael Neary, Mrs Helen Deasy, Cork and Dr. Conor Deasy, Cork enjoy climbing Croagh Patrick*

# Kilkerrin celebrates 50 years of its Apostolic Work Society

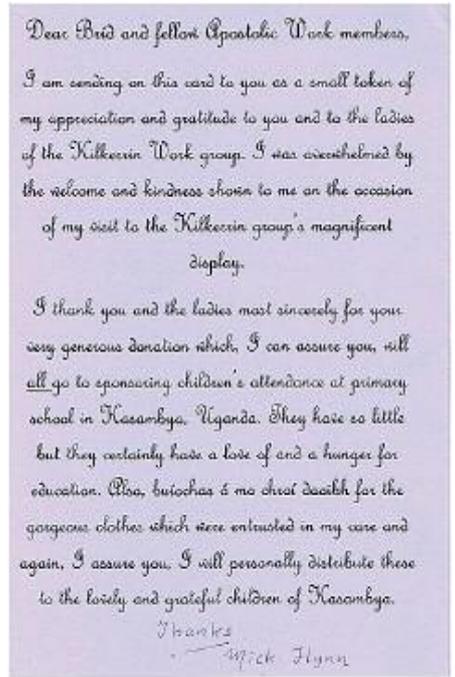


Pictured at the 30th Anniversary Mass for the Kilkerrin Apostolic Work Society are Back row (L to R): Fr Seán Higgins PP, Kilkerrin, RIP, Canon Seán Blake PP Clonberne, RIP. Front row: Mrs Christina Coen, Mrs Kathleen McCarthy, Fr Michael Keane CC, Archbishop Michael Neary, Ms Carmel Ridge.



ABOVE: Mrs Kathleen McCarthy cutting cake at 30th anniversary celebrations.

RIGHT: A letter sent from Michael Flynn to members of the Apostolic Work Society.



**K**ilkerrin Apostolic Work Society was formed on November 29th, 1964. A group of five officers from Central Office in Castlebar arrived to help get the branch started. They were met by a very enthusiastic Rev. Fr Michael Keane C.C. and an equally excited group of 20 ladies who were delighted to become the first members of the branch. On that night the first committee for the Kilkerrin Branch were elected as follows:

President, Mrs Mary Collins; Vice President, Mrs Kathleen McCarthy; Treasurer, Ms Carmel Ridge; Secretary, Mrs Christina Coen.

Those positions are held respectively today by Mrs Maureen Burke, Mrs Mary B. Divilly, Mrs Mary Ellen O' Connor and Mrs Margaret Gibney

The energy and hard work that this committee and all the first members put into the new branch was soon visible and the next monthly meeting showed an increase in membership to 38. Sadly, most of these members are no longer with us but their legacy lives on in the branch.

Throughout the years Kilkerrin Apostolic Work Society has been involved in many events, for example in 1979 when Pope John Paul II visited Knock the members made six sets of vestments and lined a total of 51 Communion Baskets for that great occasion.

At other times the branch received specific appeals for help through friends and family which the members were able to meet. For example, Fr John Battula PP, a native of India, now working in Birmingham, heard about Apostolic Work through a son of one of the branch's former presidents and he was able to get some Church requisites and other items for his colleagues back home who were working in very difficult circumstances.

In the run-up to the branch's Annual Display in 2012 another appeal was received, from Michael Flynn, who teaches in Navan and who does voluntary work in

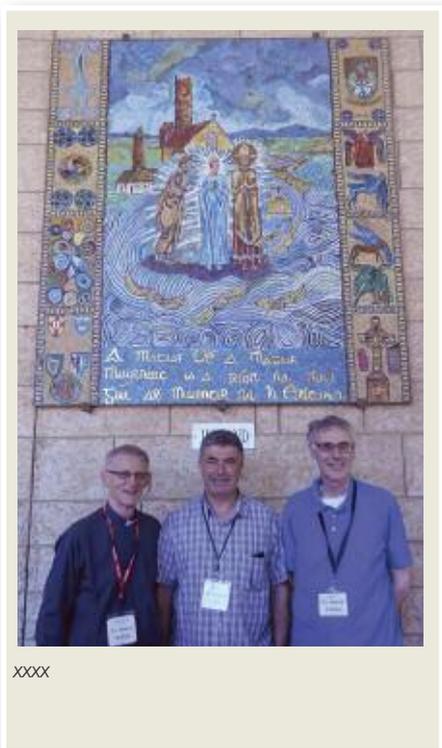
Uganda. Michael visited the display and was able to select items that were most suitable for the needs of the area to which he was going. He was also presented with a cheque from central office.

On his return, Michael got a booklet printed, showing the clothes he took with him being worn by the children of the area and it gave a wonderful sense of satisfaction to the members.

More recently the branch received an appeal from a group of local men from our neighbouring parish of Newbridge, led by Sean Gavin, who are going to Belarus to complete accommodation for orphans there. They were provided with a cheque, again through central office and the local branch.

Many things have changed over the years within the branch, especially in the area of fundraising. Nowadays funds are raised through an annual Church Gate collection and at the Annual Display.

The branch is delighted to be celebrating its 50th Anniversary and the members are very grateful to all the Spiritual Directors and the community of Kilkerrin for their unwavering help and support. A big celebration will be held in November, with a special Mass to be celebrated by Archbishop Neary.



xxxx

# ORDINATION



## A special occasion to remember

BY FR SEAN FLYNN

In the summer of 1995 – on June 11th to be precise – a young man by the name of Declan Carroll, a native of Castlebar parish, was ordained to the priesthood in the Church of the Holy Rosary, Castlebar. It would have been hard to believe on that day that most of two decades would pass before the next big day out in Castlebar for the Archdiocese. Well, that's how it was, that's what happened.

In the summer of 2014 - on June 8th to be precise - in the same sanctuary and at the same altar I followed in his footsteps and was ordained to the priesthood by the same bishop, Most Rev. Michael Neary, another native of Castlebar parish. It was beyond doubt a Castlebar parish event and the large gathering of people truly reflected that.

Looking at this trend it's not hard to figure out that an ordination is a relatively rare event in the present climate, so it was only natural

that it generated much interest and excitement. Why so? Well, believe it or not, not everyone has been at an ordination in their lifetime. I was amazed at the amount of people who said that this was their first time to attend an ordination ceremony.

Like all first-time events there is a sense of wonder and excitement attached. As I said already, it had been almost two decades since the previous one. So, of course, it was time for celebration and thanksgiving for this milestone in the life of the parish, the first ordination this century and realistically speaking, for many it may also be the last they'll see.

In my ordination booklet Fr John Cosgrove PP, Castlebar wrote 'This parish Church in its 113 years of proud history has experienced many great and memorable occasions and celebrations for the parish community - marriages, baptisms and many other

liturgical ceremonies. Today's celebration - the Rite of Ordination - adds another chapter to that proud history.' It also adds another chapter to the life of the person.

This chapter began proper in September 2007. However it's safe to say that it was under way a long time before that. The idea of becoming a priest was something that had been with me for some time before then. It was no big surprise then - to me at least - that I found myself training to be a priest; the work of a priest had always been appealing to me and it was something I had always felt I would have a flair for.

Maybe this was partly because I had worked closely with people who were at a stage of loss in their lives; or maybe it was because I felt I could offer some of my limited pastoral skills to people. Whatever the case may be, ultimately I believe God was calling me to be a priest and the only way I felt I

# ORDINATION



*ABOVE: Fr John Cosgrove, Mary McHale, Fr Sean Flynn and Jim McHale on the occasion of Fr Sean's ordination.*

*FACING PAGE: Rev. Sean O'Donnelly, Derry, Fr Sean Flynn, Archbishop of Tuam, Most Rev. Michael Neary and Rev. Sean McGuigan, Armagh at Fr Sean's ordination.*

could honestly answer was with a yes.

The calling would be there until the response came. Resounding or otherwise, saying yes in the height of a 'Celtic Tiger' boom took serious courage.

What is a priest, what is the work of a priest, indeed what is the priesthood? Well, for me, in a nutshell, priesthood is service - service to the people. As I said on my ordination day 'The priest is ordained to serve, first and foremost.' Priesthood is, at its heart, a mystery rooted in the mystery of the Eucharist and the mystery of the priesthood of Christ. This mystery is interior, in our hearts and souls and not in the externals of status or success.

Along with other duties, the priest is a witness to the efforts, desires and needs of others, offering these to God and accompanying people as their lives unfold before them.

Truthfully speaking, priesthood is earned after many years labour in seminary. Priesthood doesn't just happen, you earn it. For the past seven years I

have had the experience of being through the training ground – inside and outside of the seminary. This training ground stretched to Spain to England and back; from Maynooth to Athenry and back – and many times – to Castlebar, Knock and even to the top of Croagh Patrick.

What for, one might ask? The answer is straight forward; to be ordained to serve the people of God in the Archdiocese of Tuam. Honours don't come much bigger than that.

So the seven years are over; the training ground routine and the ordination ceremony are now part of the history of Castlebar Parish for future generations to read about. The end of a seven year journey sees the opening of another journey of priestly ministry, one which has started in the Parish of Tuam, the Cathedral parish of the Archdiocese.

I look forward to serving the people of Tuam and beyond, in the years ahead.

## *Fr Seán ordained in June*

It is with great delight that the Archdiocese of Tuam celebrated the ordination of Rev. Seán Flynn to the priesthood on Sunday, June 8th at 2.30 pm in The Church of the Most Holy Rosary, Chapel Street, Castlebar.

Forty-year-old Rev. Seán is a native of Keellogues, Co. Mayo and went to school in Parke, Castlebar. He worked for a number of years in both the catering and undertaking businesses in Castlebar before beginning his studies for the priesthood. He studied in Valladolid, Spain for one year before going to St Patrick's College, Maynooth to study theology and philosophy.

His first Mass took place on Monday, 9th of June in Castlebar Church and the following day he celebrated Mass in Parke Church and at Keellogues Church later the same week.

Archbishop Neary warmly welcomes Rev. Seán to the Tuam Presbyterate. His ordination follows a double ordination two years ago, in 2012, of Frs Eugene O'Boyle and Shane Sullivan who now minister in Castlebar and Tuam respectively.

Tuam Archdiocese has five other students studying for the priesthood at the moment.



# Poetry as Prayer – Prayer as Poetry

BY SHEILA A MCHUGH

The first signs of seasonal change from summer to autumn are the falling leaves and the very noticeable drop in temperature. The ever-changing realm of nature is captured in Gerard Manley Hopkins' poems God's Grandeur, which speaks of the world being 'charged with the grandeur of God', and Pied Beauty, whose opening line gives praise in , 'Glory be to God for dappled things –' .

As I walk through an overgrown wooded area close to my home, the words of Hopkins take on another life, poetry as active prayer, and Psalm 146 bursts through the canopy above me and my eyes are drawn heavenwards.

*Praise the Lord for he is good;  
sing to our God for he is loving:  
to him our praise is due. (146:1)*

The ground underneath my feet is carpeted with ivy. Some fern and bramble has managed to break through this sylvan cover; the light of the afternoon sun is filtering through the tall fir trees and each step I take breaks a silence.

What really catches my eye is the ivy, stealthily creeping up from the earth and cloaking those tall, stately trees, sapping life from them to support the ivy's own growth. I muse on how this reflects the 'glory of God'? As in answer, the acute awareness of being alive and present in this life and death moment gives glory to the God who holds all things together.

*The Lord covers the heavens with clouds;  
he prepares the rain for the earth,  
making mountains sprout with grass  
and with plants to serve man's needs.  
(146:8)*

Hopkins' religious imagination was nurtured by the Book of Nature and the Books of Scripture. Perhaps we are not used to being spiritually nourished in this way.

The Book of Psalms is sometimes called the Prayer Book or the Poetry Book of the Bible. Within this collection of 150 Psalms are poems or prayers on life. So, perhaps, with Hopkins and the Psalmist, we too can nurture our awareness of God...by observing what is all round us and how we experience that in our life and, in doing so, give praise and thanks to God.

*The Lord delights in those who revere him,  
in those who wait on his love. (146:11)*

**\*Sheila lives in Achill, lectures in the Religious Studies programme at GMIT and is also a retreat and spiritual director. She can be contacted at sheila.mchugh@gmit.ie**



# Crowds flock to Lady's Well



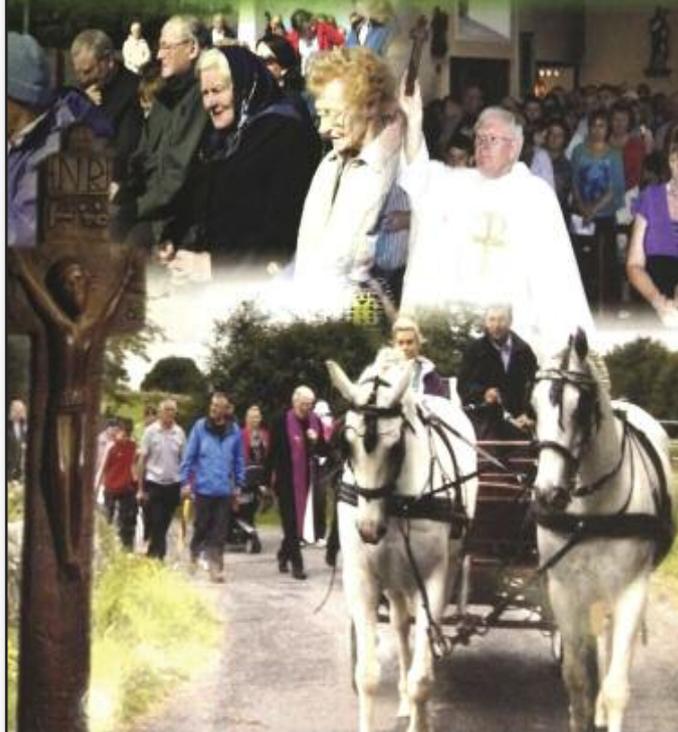
Large crowds attended the Mass for the famous Lady's day pilgrimage at Lady's Well, Athenry on August 15. The pilgrimage is believed to date from the middle ages, celebrating the occasion of a Marian apparition after the battle of Athenry in 1249.

A major occasion in the Athenry parish calendar, the pilgrimage is also popular with many people from Connemara. Beautiful weather made the occasion this year very pleasant and enjoyable.



Lady's Well, Athenry. Photo: Sharon Dolan D'Arcy, Athenry News

## MEMENTO OF MOORE & CLONFAD *Year of Faith Gathering*



## Year of Faith memento

The Pastoral Council of Moore and Clonfad recently published a 40-page memento of the Year of Faith Gathering in their parish. The publication is printed in full colour and includes photographs from the Year of Faith Gathering event which took place in the parish over the weekend of August 17 and 18, 2013.

According to Padraic Kilduff, Chairperson of the Pastoral Council "The history of place is bound up in its people, but the history of a parish is bound up not alone in its people but in the faith that sustains and has sustained them over the generations."

This memento is certainly testimony to that faith tradition in the Parish of Moore-Clonfad. While the publication has a strong historical aspect including the history of the various religious sites scattered throughout the area, the manner in which this faith tradition is being lived out today is also strongly in evidence.

This includes the celebration of the various sacraments in the parish, photographs of station masses in the homes of the parish, as well as detailed accounts of the faith gatherings that took place in the parish in August 2013.

The memento also includes the names and photographs of all the priests and religious who were natives of the Parish and who have served with various dioceses and religious orders throughout the world.

Copies of the memento are available from the Pastoral Council of Moore-Clonfad [stmarysmoore@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysmoore@gmail.com) at €8 (plus €2 postage).



# First Mass since Penal times at Cnoc an Aifrinn

BY FR CONAL EUSTACE

**N**ot far from St James' Church in Cashel, Connemara, is a hill called Cnoc an Aifrinn. As part of the Cashel Together celebrations last year it was planned to celebrate Mass there but, alas, the day turned out to be one of the few days of incessant rain during the Summer, so the Mass had to be transferred to the church.

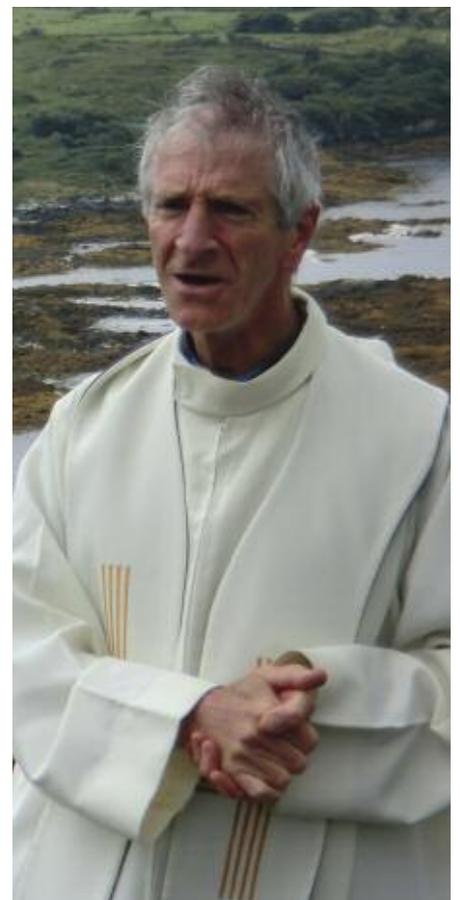
Another attempt was planned for July 30 this year which also looked for a while like falling foul of the weather but, luckily, a heavy sea mist cleared just in time.

Even though the hill is not very high it was easy to see why such a site was chosen for Mass in Penal times as the view out over

land and sea is all-encompassing and spectacularly beautiful.

The Mass was attended by about 60 people: locals and visitors. It was, presumably, the first celebration of Mass on that spot since Penal times. It was a particular privilege for me to be invited to celebrate the Mass with my neighbours as my house is situated just at the foot of Cnoc an Aifrinn.

After Mass all were invited to have refreshments in the Zetland Hotel. Great credit is due to the organisers of the event for their determination in seeing to it that this historic occasion would go ahead despite weather setbacks.



*Fr Conal Eustace celebrates Mass and gives out communion to the congregation on top of Cnoc an Aifrinn.*

# There's a lot happening!

BY BRIAN MCDONALD

Such is the iconic status of Knock as a globally renowned shrine, that it would be easy to forget that it is also a parish. Not that any of its 2,000 parishoners have ever lost sight of the fact.

At the time of the Apparition in 1879 the parish was joined with nearby Aghamore. Hardly surprisingly, Knock quickly grew as a result of the apparition and established its separate identity. Today there are 800 households in the parish, two churches and one national school—Knock NS—while second-level education needs are served by schools in Claremorris, Kiltimagh and Ballyhaunis.

"I suppose, with the growth of the popularity of the Shrine, the parish had taken second place and we have now developed a range of initiatives to reinforce the identity of the parish here", says PP Fr Richard Gibbons.

Chief among these is the establishment earlier this year of the Knock Pastoral Council with Sr Maud Murphy, a native of Knock, as Chairperson of the 15-member body. Parish meetings have also been inaugurated to update the community of developments, while a special Mass is now held at the start of the (Knock shrine) season and at the end for parishoners and all those working at the shrine.

There is also a parish get-together aimed at strengthening the sense of connection and belonging within the immediate area.

Fr Richard found himself pitched into the job of running the parish and also the daunting task of overseeing the Shrine—he is Rector of the Shrine as well as PP—in February 2012 following the sudden and

untimely death of Monsignor Joseph Quinn.

A native of Louisburgh he had graduated with a BA from NUI Galway before working for a short time as an apprentice solicitor in Dublin. He decided at that point "to check out my vocation".

He went to Rome to study in 1994 and was ordained in Louisburgh in 1999. He was initially posted to Headford where he served as curate and worked as a teacher and chaplain at the Presentation College.

In 1993 he was appointed curate in Knock, a posting he greatly enjoyed. He had not expected to succeed Mgr Quinn two

years ago, but regards it as "an honour and a privilege" to continue the work of his predecessor and to work alongside curate, Fr Pat Burke, a native of Killrerin.

"It was a daunting task, but I suppose I threw myself into it. I knew the place very well, which was a great advantage".

Straight away he embarked on a two-year consultation process to get the views of parishoners, visitors, pilgrims, staff and bishops on how the Knock Shrine experience could be improved.

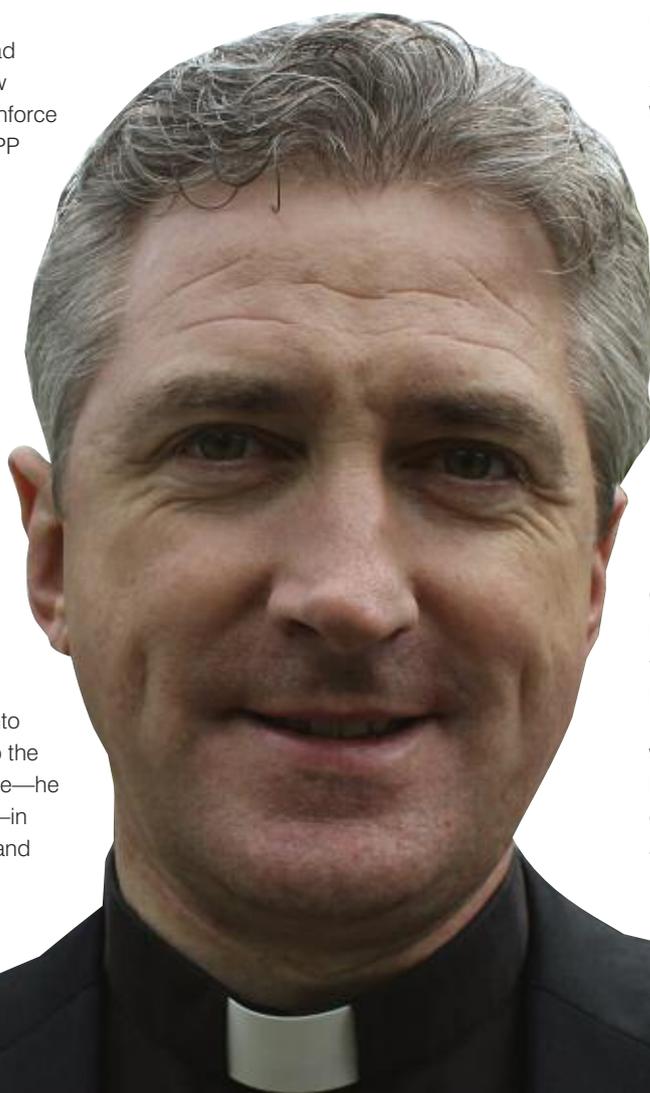
Three areas were identified: a need to promote the shrine more effectively; a desire to offer more to pilgrims in the area of faith formation; and a requirement to improve the basilica.

The latter project, which is dealt with separately in these pages, led to the Witness to Hope programme. This celebrates the 15 witnesses to the Apparition at Knock, and all those who, in their daily lives, bear witness to Christ. It also provides an opportunity to best sustain the Shrine's physical and spiritual presence and to share in the rich legacy of the Apparition.

In August up to 150,000 pilgrims travelled to Knock for the Annual Novena and to mark the 135th anniversary of the Apparition. By the end of this year, an estimated 1.6 million people will have visited the Shrine.

"There's a lot happening, but we're very conscious of not forgetting the parish. The parish is very important to us and Fr Pat and I get wonderful support from within the parish.

"We had a parish meeting recently and we had an absolutely fantastic turnout, but it is very important to make sure that everyone in the parish is kept informed about what is going on", says Fr Richard.



Fr Richard Gibbons "...an honour and a privilege" to take the reins as PP in Knock.

# A lot going on at Knock HUB

**K**nock Youth Ministry have been very busy throughout the Summer months in The HUB. The HUB is located on the Knock Shrine grounds, it is a permanent building for young people who visit Knock Shrine. The HUB (which stands for Hear, Understand, Believe) is a kids' club, a drop-in centre, a quiet prayer space, and it offers diocesan and group retreats.

Throughout the summer, the youth ministry also organised and ran a family day with Café Le Cheile. Despite the weather, this was a successful event with many families travelling to Knock for the occasion.

The big success of the Summer however, was the summer camps. "It was the first time we did anything like this and we were so happy with the results", explained Helen Toner, Director of Youth Ministry at Knock Shrine.

The Youth Ministry ran a camp for 7-11 year olds and also hosted and ran the Michaela Camp for girls aged 11-13. "This is definitely something we want to develop. You can really see the fruits of the camps and see the effect on the children who participate. We want to show people that Knock is a place for young people and families", Helen said.

Knock Youth Ministry also ran various workshops and events throughout the August Novena, giving parents the chance to attend the Novena, without having to worry about their children.

While the parents attended seminars and Mass, the children were with the youth ministry learning about the joy of the Gospel.

Knock Youth Ministry will re-open the HUB at Christmas and Advent for 4 and 8 week programmes and will open again next Summer. Throughout the year it will facilitate school retreats, with schools coming from all over Ireland to attend.

[www.knock-shrine.ie/youthfestival](http://www.knock-shrine.ie/youthfestival)  
See Facebook 'Knock Youth Festival'



*Shrine statues window enhanced*





Artist's impression of the Blessed Sacrament Chapel in the Basilica of Our Lady of Knock.



Proposed refurbishment of Knock Basilica interior.

# Ambitious plans under way for Knock Shrine

A major development plan is in train for Knock aimed at revitalising and renewing the Shrine and providing generations of visitors with a peaceful and prayerful setting in which to grow and deepen their faith.

According to the Rector of the Shrine, Fr Richard Gibbons, the proposed developments are a response to the belief "that we have a duty, and the potential, to lead the way on Church renewal, especially in Ireland".

But Fr Gibbons stresses that it is only with the help and prayers of parishoners, pilgrims, clergy and religious that this ambitious aim will be achieved.

"This crucial effort – 'Witness to Hope' – takes place in a year in which we celebrate the 15 witnesses to the Apparition at Knock, and all those who, in their daily lives, bear witness to Christ.



"It allows us, by playing a role in sustaining the Shrine's physical and spiritual presence, to share the joy of the Apparition and of the Gospel,

enriching our own lives and the lives of others", Fr Gibbons says.

The 15 witnesses to the events of the 21 August 1879 were ordinary people. In the years following the Apparition, some of them emigrated. Others married locally and brought up families. Some died young while others would tell the story of that day into ripe old age.

But what they saw on that wet August evening changed their lives – and the village of Knock – forever.

*"I beheld, all at once, standing out from the gable... three figures which, on more attentive inspection, appeared to be that of the Blessed Virgin, St. Joseph and St. John. Above the altar and resting on it was a lamb and around it I saw golden stars, or small brilliant lights... reflecting the light of some luminous body."* **Testimony of witness Mary O'Connell, née Byrne (pictured above).**

Following a great deal of consultation, including extensive surveying of Catholics both in Ireland and across the world, three core priorities were identified: strengthening



and sharing the faith through faith renewal and retreat programmes; refurbishing the Basilica, in order to enhance the liturgical experience for pilgrims and parishoners; and the promotion of Knock as a place of pilgrimage at home and abroad.

Completed in 1976 and raised to the status of Basilica by Saint John Paul II during his 1979 visit to Knock, the Basilica of Our Lady of Knock, Queen of

Ireland, allows thousands of pilgrims and parishoners to experience a sense of unity in worship.

It has served as the centrepiece for an extraordinary number of historic events, including a pilgrimage visit by Blessed Teresa of Calcutta in 1993 and, in 2012, Ireland's National Eucharistic Congress.

It is now hoped that the refurbishment project will ensure that everyone can continue to find peace and comfort in a warm and welcoming environment.

Planned improvements include: the replacement of all seating; the creation of a new sanctuary to provide more appropriately for the most important event in a church – the celebration of the Eucharist; the installation of new heating and lighting systems and the upgrade of entrances.



The extraordinary picture from 1880 showing the crutches of grateful pilgrims who wanted to acknowledge their cure at Knock.

## Proof positive in a crutch

BY BRIAN MCDONALD

Over the years the word ‘cure’ has occasionally come to mean something altogether different from what was intended by the ancient wordsmiths.

It had nothing at all to do with the morning-after remedy to the over-indulgence of the night before. It simply meant a remedy to an illness or infirmity.

And it was exactly such an outcome that was fervently hoped for by the growing numbers of sick and disabled pilgrims who began to flock to Knock in the aftermath of the Apparition of 1879.

“They came from all over when word spread of the Apparition. They walked and cycled for miles”, explains Knock’s Head of Marketing and Promotion, Maria Hunt (pictured above).

Those who arrived at the Shrine almost always wanted to take a small part of Knock back home with them. This

usually consisted of clay or holy water, because of its association with cures.

Those who were fortunate enough to be blessed with a cure often sat down to write letters of gratitude to the then Parish Priest of Knock, Archdeacon Bartholew Kavanagh.

Many of these remarkable, touching letters—most written from 1880 on--have been preserved and are housed in the museum at Knock Shrine.

“But for those who believed they were cured while praying at Knock, the custom was to leave something behind as testimony to the cure.

“Most often this involved people leaving behind one or both of their crutches and these were displayed on the timber hoarding at the Apparition gable of the parish church”, says Maria.

Our photograph above, which is reproduced with the kind permission of the Wynne Photographic Collection, dates from 1880 and shows a collection of the crutches and some younger pilgrims turning to face the camera.



John Hynes,  
no cross too  
great to bear.



## No cross too great to bear for the man in 2D

BY **BRIAN MCDONALD**

**J**ohn Hynes is in Section 2D. And no, that doesn't mean he's a member of an elite security outfit working on top secret missions. The 2 means he's on duty on the second Sunday of each month and the D assigns him to people's needs in St John's Rest and Care Centre at the country's National Marian Shrine in Knock.

Just for good measure, those in D section also help organise the Eucharistic and Rosary Processions at Knock.

John is one of 800 stewards and handmaids who give of their time at the Shrine and, for every one of them, it is a labour of love.

The recently retired garda sergeant has been doing the job for the last 15 years but, for him, the Knock connection started when he was just a small boy.

"I remember being brought here by my late mother, Kathleen, to different pilgrimages, especially the Feast of the Assumption on August 15. We lived in Kilkelly and we'd be up at 4am to get there in time for 6am Mass and confession.

"After Mass, we'd walk home and have the breakfast. It was seven and a half miles there and the same back, but we thought nothing of it.

"Many other people had to travel much longer distances than us, but Knock was always part of our lives", says John.

And today it is very much part of his own family's life. His wife Catherine and daughter, Ellen, are both handmaids and his sons Nigel and Eric have followed John into giving their spare time as stewards.

"It's not a sacrifice for us. We're just down the road in Aghamore, but people travel to do their duty from places like Cork, Donegal and Longford. They make a real sacrifice".

His Sunday routine starts with Mass at 11am specifically for stewards and handmaids and it's straight to work afterwards.

Among the services they provide are: care of the sick, the elderly and those with disabilities; provision of First Aid; maintenance of order and crowd control; preparation of meals; enrolling pilgrims in

the Mass Association, Rosary Crusade and International Blessed Sacrament Guild; and provision of literature about the Shrine.

John and his fellow stewards are instantly recognisable by their uniform of navy jacket, grey trousers, white shirt and navy tie bearing the basilica logo.

It's a uniform he would like to have donned earlier, but with his career keeping him away from the West until more recent times, he was unable to become as involved as he would have wished.

So what is the attraction?

"It's just an opportunity to give my time to those less fortunate--the sick and the elderly—to try to make their lives a little more comfortable.

"As a garda you're constantly meeting people and you need to be a good communicator and you find that in Knock the elderly and the ill will often love to talk about their lives, their problems and you have to listen and be patient.

"I just enjoy doing it. For me it's an absolute privilege", says John.

*"Each of you has a personal vocation which He has given you for your own joy and sanctity. When a person is conquered by the fire of His gaze, no sacrifice seems too great to follow Him and give Him the best of ourselves. This is what the saints have always done, spreading the light of the Lord ... and transforming the world into a welcoming home for everyone."*

– Pope Benedict XVI



Bishop Alvaro del Portillo (1914-1994) at Knock Shrine 4 August 1980.

## Once on a rainy day in Knock...

BY **FR DONNCHA Ó HAODHA**

In 1980, on a wet and windy day, a pilgrim arrived at the shrine of Our Lady in Knock. He was a priest from a far country.

While he was there some boy-scouts, also on a visit to the shrine, came up to him and asked him to bless their newly acquired rosary beads. In some friendly banter with the boys he remarked that it was a pity about the weather.

With a boyish directness and a degree of supernatural vision which delighted him, one of the boys replied, "If it was good enough for Our Lady when she appeared here, it is good enough for us."

That pilgrim priest was declared Blessed before over 100,000 pilgrims at his Beatification ceremony in a park on the outskirts of Madrid on September 27 last, exactly 100 years after he was born in that city. He was Fr Alvaro del Portillo, later to be Bishop Alvaro del Portillo. At that time he was the head of Opus Dei.

Blessed Alvaro was the lifelong companion and right-hand man of St Josemaría Escrivá, the founder of Opus Dei. Having worked by his side from the early 1930s to the latter's death in 1975, Fr Alvaro became the new head of what was to become the Prelature of Opus Dei by decree of St. John Paul II in 1982.

Blessed Alvaro visited Ireland on several occasions and on one of those occasions, the first after succeeding St. Josemaría, made this visit to Our Lady of Knock.

The weather would have deterred many, but not Fr Alvaro. He made it the centrepiece of his visit and in doing so fulfilled a custom he and St. Josemaría observed in any country they went to--visiting Our Lady's shrines

Twenty years ago, he died suddenly in Rome. He passed away peacefully in the early hours of March 23, 1994, in circumstances which many see as a special favour to him from God. He died just hours after returning from a pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

On the previous day, he had celebrated his last Mass in the Church of the Cenacle or Last Supper in Jerusalem.

**\*Fr Donncha Ó hAodha is a priest of the Opus Dei Prelature, a native of Galway, ministering in Dublin.**



Alvaro del Portillo, former Bishop of Vita and head of Opus Dei.



Pictured at the meeting of the Sapienti Committee in Knock were; Bishop Philip Boyce, Bishop Brendan Kelly, Mr. Brian Ó Donnchadha, Monsignor James O'Brien, Dr. Cairtriona Ó Dochartaigh, Prof. Pádraig Ó Riain, Archbishop Michael Neary and Fr Joseph Briody.

## Sapienti Committee in Knock

The 12th meeting of the Sapienti Committee for the review of the proposed Irish language translation of the Missale Romanum took place in Knock from June 12-14.

Present at the meeting were the Most Rev. Michael Neary, Archbishop of Tuam and Chairman, the Most Rev. Philip Boyce, Bishop of Raphoe, the Most Rev. Brendan Kelly, Bishop of Achonry, Professor Pádraig Ó Riain, Dr Cairtriona Ó Dochartaigh, Monsignor James O'Brien, Mr Brian Ó Donnchadha and Fr Joseph Briody, Secretary.

The Committee commented on further material from the Missale Romanum. The Institutio Generalis was examined along with the rubrics and text of the Ordo Missae.

Some more recent texts were also examined for inclusion in the new Irish language translation of the Missal such as the Mass of Our Lord Jesus Christ Eternal High Priest, St Hildegard of Bingen and St John of Avila. Time was also devoted to the General Roman Calendar and the Calendar for Ireland.

The very high standard of the Draft Irish translation was once again noted and praised.

# A changing Ireland now posing a changed challenge for our church

BY FR COLM KILCOYNE

**A**part from a summer break, BBC TV has had a Sunday morning programme called The Big Questions.

It brings together 30-plus people who have opinions about morality or faith. One of the last programmes before the summer break had just one topic: God. This programme had a mix of people of every shade of belief and none.

I was impressed most by the non-believers and sceptics. Perhaps a strange thing for me to say. Let me explain.

Not that they converted me. No. But, because they did two simple things well. So simple we sometimes forget how important they are.

Firstly, they used day-to-day words and experiences to explain where they stood on God.

Secondly, they mostly were sensitive to the variety of people listening to them in the studio and on TV. They stayed true to their disbelief. They didn't cut corners to please. No way. What they did was they tuned their presentations to win hearts, not win arguments.

It was a master class in the language and attitude to use when talking about God to

believers and critics alike. Whether that's in the kitchen, pub or pulpit. Anywhere.

I'm afraid some of those who spoke up for God didn't show the same sensitivity. The atheists in the studio weren't the only ones put off by the religious jargon, the preachy tone, the talking-down attitude.

I wasn't looking for the people of faith to compromise their beliefs to humour the non-believers. Far from that.

But I did want to be that bit proud that they showed an awareness of a common humanity. I hoped they'd at least have tried to imagine standing in the shoes of atheists and sceptics to get the feel of it. They may have family members more in tune with the critics than with themselves. The Christians among them might have reflected on how Jesus handled Doubting Thomas.

Then, to let all that inject some humility, some persuasion, into their words. Those who don't shout about religion win hearts when they do speak.

All this has relevance for our Irish church. We are not who we were. Attitudes to authority and organised religion have changed. We need to take that on board.

Authority now lies with people whose words, values and behaviour are all of a

piece. Pope Francis himself. Not simply because he is pope but because he is both a talk-the-talk and a walk-the-walk pope. The Fr Peter Mc Verrys.

Neighbours who live by the values and ways of Jesus. The priests who 'wear out shoe leather'. A young mother and her husband who have put their lives on hold to mind at home her mother who has Alzheimer's.

These and thousands like them in our diocese are now our chief witnesses to the gospel of Jesus. Their authority is their lives. The church's legacy will be transmitted mainly through them. Just now they may feel the wind is against them. So let's never forget to name, affirm and celebrate their witness to faith. Help them explore that faith so they can be more confident in living it and talking about it. They are our hope, our new missionaries.

And if we do decide to engage with critics from inside or outside our church (which we should) there's a piece of folk wisdom.

Question: What's the best way to show a stick is crooked? Answer: Say nothing much but just put a straight stick alongside it.

## Jubilee celebrations



Frs Shane Sullivan, Francis Mitchell, Enda Lyons, Máirtín Ó Conaire, Michael Kenny, Stephen Farragher, Archbishop Michael Neary, John D. Flannery, Tony Neville on the occasion of Fr Kenny's Golden jubilee recently.



Fr Peter Gannon, Claremorris celebrates his Silver Jubilee with the parish's senior choir.

# Food for thought in an Indian adventure

BY **REBECCA COMER**

I went to India this summer expecting to be teaching English. Yes, I did indeed do that (or at least I tried), but there is something about Kolkata and the Bengali people that made my experience so much more.

Before going, I had the same expectations of the city as I imagine anyone would have —filthy streets, open sewers, horrific smells and extreme poverty. Now, when I see this place in my mind's eye, I see a thriving city so full of life and character, with so much colour and drive.

The Irish organisation I went to India with is called Suas. It has ten partner organisations in Kolkata and Delhi, and each year sends about 100 Irish volunteers to work in disadvantaged schools.

The organisation my 9 teammates and I volunteered with is called Sabuj Sangha. Coming from differing parts of Ireland, we were six girls —Orlaith McAuliffe, Holly Hughes, Anne Leahy, Marie Murphy, Caroline Walsh and myself, and four young men — Conor Doyle, Ronan Costello, Owen Moore and Alex Gleeson.

The school Holly and I were assigned to is about 40 minutes outside the city. We travelled there every morning on the hectic commuter train, which is always bustling with bright coloured saris, and vendors selling every type of fruit and vegetable under the sun. The train is never a dull place, with constant chattering, laughing and hollering. I could use the same words to describe the classroom environment. The children would only ever be silent during Morning Prayer (Muslim), and even then, there was a whole lot of nudging and shoving going on when they thought teacher wasn't looking!

Although the classroom was a chaotic place at best, where the children would use chalk to write on the concrete floor, as they have no copies or pencils, I feel a lot of them found peace and inner contentment in coming to school.

With the 40 degree heat, and the 80% humidity, not to mention the huge range of ages and abilities, and the waning attention span of my students, I guess I didn't actually get to teach as much English as I had expected. I feel that the most important part of my being here



*Orlaith McAuliffe, Holly Hughes, Anne Leahy, Marie Murphy, Caroline Walsh and Rebecca Comer check out the local style.*

was to reinforce in the children's minds the importance of education, as many of them are first generation learners and must battle with their parents for the right to come to school, rather than earn a daily pittance from physical labour.

With plenty of fun games and interactive learning at the school, I can safely say that our group of Irish girls really did succeed in creating a happy, joyful, positive learning environment, which hopefully the teachers and students alike will continue in our absence.

The kids I worked with can now say "Good morning, Auntie" in a fine Mayo accent! I just don't know if our little contribution has been enough. But I also don't know what more I can do.

How can something be so incredibly rewarding, yet, so utterly dissatisfying?

**Rebecca is a native of Keelogue Parish, Co. Mayo.**



*Rebecca and some of her young friends during her trip to Kolkata.*



# *A pilgrimage that has become a life-changer*

BY DAVID CORLESS

**T**he great writer Oscar Wilde once said: "We can have in life but one great experience at best and the secret of life is to reproduce that experience as often as possible."

I rarely find it difficult to express myself or give my opinion, but in the case of my pilgrimage to Lourdes with the Irish Pilgrimage Trust accompanied by a group of 13 other friends and fellow volunteers, I am stumped. The experience was so profound that it is difficult to verbalise it.

Lourdes 2014 was without doubt the most rewarding, inspirational and life-changing experience of my life - that 'one great experience'. I have to admit, however, that before I arrived in the holy town in the south of France, I was quite sceptical.

I simply didn't know what to expect. Was it going to be non-stop Mass all week? Would I get along with the people I would be working with? And above all, would I like it?

After arriving in Biarritz, a two-hour car journey to Lourdes ensued where food lay waiting for us in Hosanna House, our base for the week. Any earlier doubts were soon

quashed by the group's warm hospitality and easygoing nature.

During the course of the week I was working with adults with varying degrees of disability, both physical and intellectual. Admittedly, it was quite difficult to integrate fully with the group on Day 1 as many of us volunteers were out of our comfort zone but, by the second day, the bond between us and the group increased and continued to grow until we were like a family unit.

I am now of the opinion that, having worked with these adults with varying disabilities, I am both a changed and a better person. We went out to Lourdes that week to help them and to assist their carers, but they gave us far more than anything we could have ever possibly given them.

Each time we went to Hosanna House (a home for people with special needs) we were met with hugs and embraces from all sides, giving us a first-hand glimpse of the purity of God's love.

I have really learned an immense amount from these wonderful people. Despite their disabilities, they are without question the

most cheerful, content people I have met. The whole experience made me view the 'ability' instead of the 'disability'. I will never forget them for the amazing and profound experience they gave me.

I also grew a great deal spiritually. Daily celebration of the Holy Mass as well as frequent visits to the Baths, the Rosary Basilica, the Underground Basilica, the Church of St Bernadette and the Chapel of Reconciliation were all very meaningful experiences.

The candlelight procession was also an amazing sight – to see the thousands of candles lit and held by their owners in the Rosary Square was breathtaking. However nothing could surpass the beauty of the Grotto, the place where the Virgin Mary appeared 18 times to a poor peasant girl Bernadette, 156 years ago. The peace and tranquility one experiences at this sacred place is indescribable.

The entire Lourdes experience has left me with a great feeling of peace and joy in my heart.

**David Corless is a student at St Colman's College, Claremorris.**



Conor Laverty and David Corless during their trip to Lourdes recently.



Students and teachers from St Colman's College, Claremorris pictured in Lourdes. Back row (L to R): Jamie Connolly, David Corless, Jarlath Bell, Ethan Jordan, Peter Geraghty, Luke Gibbons, Cathy Freeley, Colin Gallagher, Conor Laverty. Front row: Mairtin Merrick, Trisha Gallagher, Seamus Cafferkey, Mary Egan, Fr Michael Murphy.

# Walking in footsteps of St Therese of Avila

BY JOHN B MCLOUGHLIN

**P**ilgrims from the Archdiocese of Tuam with their Spiritual Director, Fr Tod Nolan, followed in the footsteps of St Therese of Avila in early July. Their journey took them to Avila where they visited the museum dedicated to St Therese and the Convent of the Incarnation.

They had Mass celebrated by Fr Nolan in the cathedral in Avila – the old city is surrounded by imposing city walls.

The tour at Alba de Tormes was a great success. It was here that St Therese died in 1582 and part of her body is also buried here.

Parts of her body had been taken away as relics and we find a finger back in Avila and an arm and the heart nearby to her coffin. The coffin is locked with nine keys, stored in different locations throughout Spain and elsewhere.

Memorabilia from her life are housed here in a new museum opened in the last few weeks and the Tuam pilgrims had one of the daily Masses here.

A walking tour of Salamanca, a University city, and a guided tour of the Castle in Segovia, one of Spain's most famous historic cities, were undertaken and enjoyed by all.

St John of the Cross was Therese's advisor and confessor and, consequently, the pilgrimage followed in his footsteps too.

Segovia and Toledo are associated with St John of the Cross and St Therese's earlier Foundation was at a small house in Toledo which is known as the City of Tolerance for the followers of its three religions – Muslims, Jews and Christians.

The Tuam Pilgrims had Mass in Spanish at a Cathedral in Madrid and had lunch at the café at the Real Madrid Football Stadium.

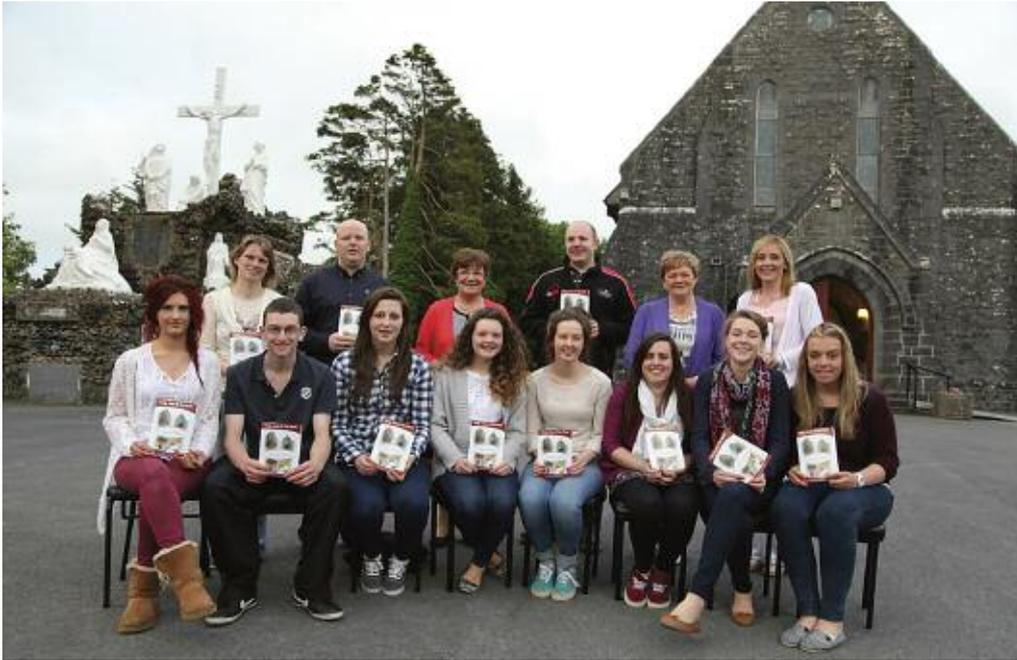


*Pilgrims from the Tuam Archdiocese enjoy retracing the footsteps of St Therese of Avila this summer.*



*Glenamaddy parishioners partake in the Corpus Christi procession.*

# JOHN PAUL II AWARDS



At the launch of the booklet 'Inside Our Parish' are, Back Row (L to R): Michele Conroy, Ciarán Ryan, Teresa Higgins, Jerome Varley, Kathleen Conroy, Trish O'Brien; Front row: Méadhbh Ryan, Mark O'Halloran, Chloe Gibbons, Eimear Gorman, Serena Maloney, Aisling Keane, Eimear Morrin, Jean Morrin.

## Cong, Cross and The Neale John Paul II Awards

BY TERESA HIGGINS

The Cong, Cross and The Neale John Paul II Awards group was begun by the Pastoral Council in October 2013 and a group of Transition Year students – seven girls and one boy – committed to becoming involved. From the outset they decided to go for gold!

The Gold Award requires 20 weeks involvement in the parish and 20 weeks Social Awareness. Kathleen Conroy and I committed to being their leaders. As we had a mixed gender group, Jerome Varley and Ciaran Ryan agreed to become involved too.

The students variously signed up for the church choir, prayers of the faithful, joining the church cleaners rota, putting up and decorating the Christmas tree and removing it after Christmas.

They were involved with the Senior Citizens

Mass and Christmas party in the local community hall. They took part for the five nights of the "You shall be my Witness" programme for Confirmation.

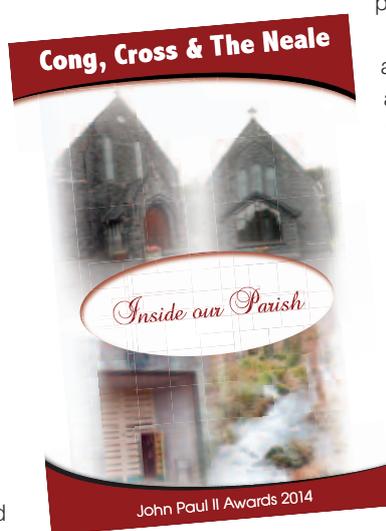
They were busy for Holy Week also and the congregation attending were delighted to see the young students involved.

A group project was undertaken – to gather information on ecclesiastical sites in the parish and publish them in a booklet. The name 'Inside Our Parish', format and layout of the booklet was decided on by the students.

Trish O'Brien launched the booklet at Mass in the Neale on June 2nd. It got a wonderful response both

from inside and outside the parish.

It was a huge commitment from both students and leaders and a big learning curve for us all. We are looking forward to the presentation of medals in October.



*"I'd do it again in a heartbeat"*

BY EIMEAR GORMAN

We began our journey on a cold winters evening in December in the priest's house in The Neale. A group of Transition Years had been invited to listen to Trish O'Brien, (the then Diocesan Youth Director), so we would have a better understanding of what The John Paul II awards were about.

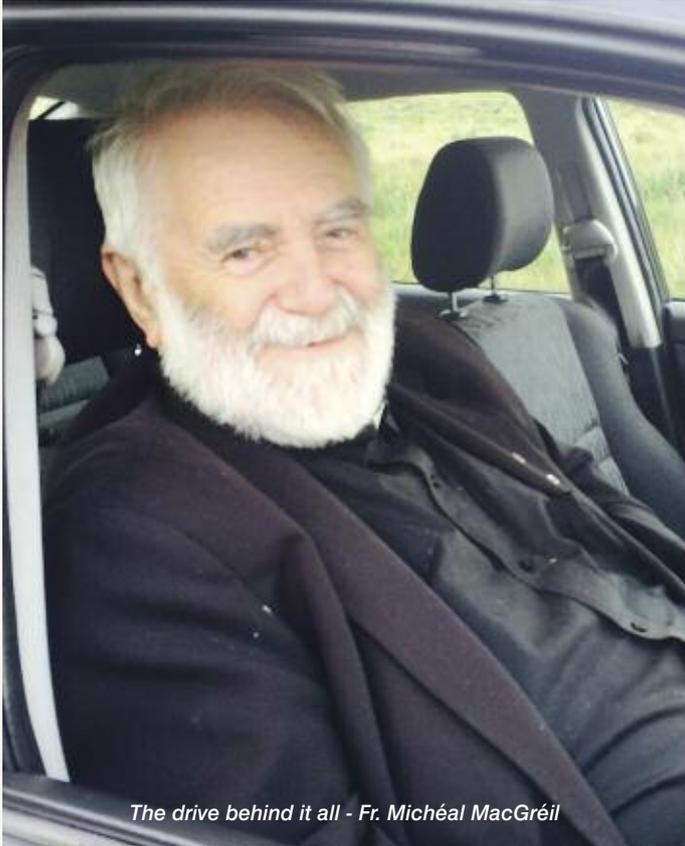
Although some of us only went because we were told there was going to be pizza, once Trish finished her speech we were all eager to take part in the project, and from then on there was no backing out!

We jumped straight into the task of getting our award hours cards filled, each of us taking part in different activities to fill up the sheets.

We decided on the making of a booklet to focus on all the historical religious monuments and places in our parish, because the parish of Cong/Cross/The Neale is so big, many people including the members of our group knew little or nothing about their neighbouring villages and sometimes even their own!

The feedback about our booklet and all the work we have done over the past few months has been phenomenal. Many find it hard to believe that a group of only eight sixteen year olds and their leaders completed the book to such a good quality.

The last few months that I have spent doing this programme have been great fun, I have learned a lot about our parish and I would do it all over again in a heartbeat.



The drive behind it all - Fr. Micheál MacGréil

## Amhrán Beag Mháméan

Bhí an lá úd go breá nuair a chuaigh mé suas go Máméan.  
Tá srín Phádraig ansin, 's, go deimhin, ní raibh mé liom féin.  
Ó bhí slua mór ann, idir aosta is óg, is cuid mhaith acu mic léinn,  
Agus fear in a measc, 'sé an t-Athair Micheál Mac Gréil.

Bhí an t-aifreann binn ann, is na paidreacha naofa a rá,  
Bhí an grian geal sa spéir, is na h-éanlaigh ag canadh go breá.  
Agus cuid de na daoine ag siúl thart ar Thuras na gCrois  
Ó, ní fhaca mé slua chomh mór sin le fada an lá.

Tá tobar naomh Phádraig i Máméan ar bhun árd cnoic mhóir.  
Téann daoine ansin ins an Earrach, san Samhraidh, san Fhómhair,  
Ta leigheas san uisce mar bheannaigh naomh Phádraig 's Árd Easpag  
Thuama é,  
Is dá bhí sin, tá cáil ar an uisce ag daoine go leor.

Tá dealbh naomh Phádraig i Máméan ar feadh cúpla bhlian .  
Chun é thógáil suas, bhí a lán daoine ag obair go dian.  
Nuair curadh san áit úd, bhí áthas ar an Athair Micheál,  
Mar is dócha níor fhaca sé dealbh chomh deas leis ariamh.

Ó is iontach an áit é, gan amhras, i mo thuairim féin  
Tríd an tír seo ar fad, 's é ag seasamh amach go soiléar.  
Ach tá fear amháin ann, go speisialta, le clú agus cáil,  
Sé an t-uasal, an t-urramach Micheál, Aspal Mháméan!

An tAthar Ciarán de Búrca.

## Destinations for all tastes!

We've got over 25 International destinations to choose from this summer. Whether its city lights or a sun drenched beach, we've got somewhere to suit all tastes!

**New** destinations this summer include Glasgow, Eindhoven & Kaunas with Ryanair and Cologne with Germanwings.



Ireland  
West  
Airport  
Knock



For more information visit

[irelandwestairport.com](http://irelandwestairport.com)

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# OILITHREACTH MHÁMÉAN 2014

**AN TATH PÁDRAIG STANDÚN**

**B**hí rogha os mo chomhair nuair a bhí Aifrinn an lae thart ar an gcéad Domhnach de mhí Lúnasa, fanacht ar mo tholg ag breathnú ar Ghaillimh in aghaidh Chiarraí agus Maigh Eo in aghaidh Chorcaigh ar an dteilifís, nó aghaidh a thabhairt ar oilithreacht an tsamhraidh i Mám Éan ag bun na gcnoc sna Mám Tuirc. Bhraith mé sách leisciúil, ach níor theastaigh uaim breathnú ar Ghaillimh buacach agus Maigh Eo buailte. Ní hé go bhfuil rud ar bith agam in aghaidh na Gaillimhe. Is mó de mo shaol caite agam ann ná i mo chondae dúchais, ach cén sort saoil a bheadh ag Maigheogach imeasc na marúin dá n-éireódh leo agus dá dteipfeadh ar an dearg is uaithe? Shíl mé gurb é an rud ba shábháilte ná mo chloigeann a fholmhú i ngaineamh na trá nó gabháil agus mo chuid paidreacha a rá ar thaobh an tsléibhe,

Lá tirim gaofar a bhí ann, lá maith a bheith ag dreapadh sléibhe, ach níorbh fhada gur bhraith mé go raibh an aois tagtha i mo chuid cosa. Bhí orm scóth a ligean níos minici ná mar a bhí súil agam leis, Ach d'éirigh liom, buiochas le Dia agus

le píosa comhrá le cúpla duine ó m'áit dúchais. Bhí Ard-shagart Mhám Éan agus eagarthóir na hirise seo, an tAthair Fiontán Ó Monacháin ann romham, é imithe tharam ar nós na gaoithe leathbealaigh suas an chosáin anróiteach. Níor éirigh leis an té is mó a raibh baint aige leis an oilithreacht sin a ath-bhunu, an tAthair Micheál MacGréil dul chomh fada leis an srín i mblíana, ach bhí sé ag bun an tsléibhe, súil aige le bheith ar ais ar a sheanléim arís an bhliain seo chugainn, le cunamh Dé. Bhí Sagart Pobail Bhéal Átha an Rí, an tAthair Breandán Mac Giolla Chaoín ann freisin chomh maith leis an Athair Seán Ó Conghaile ó Chois Fharraige, a bhí ag fail réidh le fillleadh ar an gCóire Theas sula dtagadh an Pápa ansin coicís níos deireanaí. Tháinig Sagart Rosmuc, an tAthair Pádraig Ó Consaindín níos deireanaí.

Thosnaigh Turas na Croise, an tAthair Fiontán i mbun urnaithe, véarsaí ó "Caoineadh na dTrí Muire" á gcasadh ag an sár-fhonnadóir sean-nóis Joe John Mac An Iomaire ó Chill Chiaráin idir na Stáisiúin. Bhí thart ar leath na ndaoine suite ar an bhféar, an leath eile ag leanacht an turais. Is gearr go bhfuair mé amach go raibh Turas

Pháirc an Chrócaigh ar siúl taobh le taobh le Turas na Croise. Bhí Íosa tite de chéaduair nuair a d;airigh mé an cogar: "Galway are getting hammered." Níorbh é Mac Dé amháin a bhí i dtrioblóid. Ar aghaidh leis an turas agus leis na hamhráin beannaithe. Ag "mná Iorasalem ag caoineadh Íosa" bhí tuar le haiséirí de chineál eile: "Tá Gaillimh i bhfoisceacht dá chúilín dóibh – ta dhá chúil sciobtha faighte acu." Níor chuala mé níos mó faoin gcluiche go dtí go raibh an turas thart, ceoltóirí óga Charna ag casadh is ag rinne roimh an Aifreann.

Ag macnamh dom ar mo bhealach anuas ón ard shíl mé go raibh an-chosúlacht idir an oilithreacht a raibh mé páirteach ann agus an sort slua a bhíodh thart ar Íosa de réir na soiscéalta. Nuair a fheicim na daoine sin i súile mo chuid samhlaíochta, tá chuile chinéal ann, a dhearcadh féin, a leagan amach féin, a n-ualach féin, a chuid ceisteanna féin, a "agenda" féin ag gach duine acu. Creideamh in áit an mhargaidh, imeasc na ndaoine, ioncolnú, MacDÉ ar talamh. Ba bhréa an rud é a bheith mar chuid de.



*Majella Mortimer from Carrowkennedy who carried the cross and Kevin Kitterick from Louisburgh*



*Paddy and Phil Finn, Ballyglunin.*

## CASTLEBAR PARISH YEAR OF FAITH PROJECT



*Pictured at the launch of the Prayer Book were (L to R): Yvonne Horkan, Teresa Staunton, Detta Molloy, Fr Sean Cunningham, Kathleen Duffy, Brid Kelly, Sr Teresa Kilcourse.*

# Living the moment through prayer

BY MARY CONNELL

**D**uring the Year of Faith, Catholics worldwide were encouraged to reflect in a special way on their faith. Castlebar Pastoral Council responded to this call with a project that came to involve the whole parish community.

Initially, all 11 schools in the parish were invited to take part in a project to explore the theme "What my Faith means to me". It was hoped that each school would create a book of favourite prayers or a Book of Faith with the intention that some of their prayers would then be used to produce a parish book of prayer.

Some ideas and suggestions were offered to students and teachers to help guide the various projects. Among the suggestions for inclusion were favourite family prayers, favourite prayers of famous people, history of local places associated

with faith, life stories of people from the parish who helped spread the faith as missionaries throughout the world.

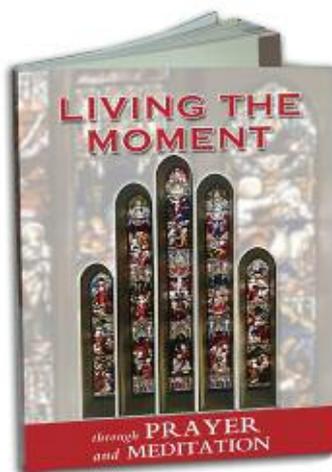
The response from the schools was overwhelming. Each school produced a unique collection of prayers and reflections, all beautifully compiled and illustrated.

Clearly a great deal of time and effort on the part of students and their teachers had gone into creating these collections.

During a weekend Celebration of Faith in the parish, the projects were put on display in the three churches where everyone had an opportunity to view the work.

The Pastoral Council then invited all parishioners to reflect on prayers that had a special place in their hearts and submit them for possible

inclusion in a prayer book. The result was the Castlebar parish prayer book, 'Living the Moment through Prayer and Meditation'.



This easy to use pocket Prayer Book is divided into 11 sections and provides something helpful for all occasions when we turn to God in prayer. It starts by providing guidance as we begin to pray and is followed by daily prayers in both English and Irish, prayers of thanksgiving and praise, prayers for guidance, prayers in times of sickness and at the end of life, praying with Mary and the saints, prayers for vocation, marriage and family as well as meditations and blessings. One section is devoted to the Sacrament of Reconciliation and provides guidance as we prepare to receive the sacrament.

At the launch of the prayer book, Fr John Cosgrove PP spoke of "human life as a constant want and so our life ought to be a constant prayer as prayer enables us to look beyond ourselves and to see the needs of those around us.

Prayer enables us to see life from God's perspective."

**The prayer book costs €5 or three for €10 and is available from the Presbytery, Chapel Street Castlebar. Tel: 094 9021844.**

## *The Death March that leads to sainthood for Headford priest*

BY FR RAY FLAHERTY

**D**uring the early days of December, 2013 we learnt that the Korean Catholic Bishops Conference had put forward 84 modern day martyrs to Rome for beatification. Among the 64 are seven Irish Columban priests who died for their faith during the Korea War 1950-1953: they are Fr Anthony Collier from Clogherhead, Co Louth, Fr James McGinn, Montana, USA of Irish parents, Fr Patrick Reilly, Drumraney, Co Westmeath, Monsignor Patrick Brennan, Chicago of Irish emigrant parents, Fr Thomas Cusack, Liscannor, Co Clare, Fr John O'Brien, Donamon, Co Roscommon and Fr Francis Canavan of Headford, Co Galway.

Along with many parishioners, I am delighted to think that one of our native sons, who was born and reared in the community of Headford and whose family was well known to many, is now – after all these 63 years since his death in Korea in 1950 – being considered for beatification.

Archbishop Neary's comment on the announcement of the proposed beatifications was "it is a cause of much rejoicing and giving thanks...his heroic life of pastoral service, missionary endeavour and giving to the point of martyrdom is the greatest testament to the faith of himself, his family, the community of Headford and the Archdiocese of Tuam at the time."

'Three Winters Cold' is the title of a book written by the Australian Columban, Fr Philip Crosbie, who describes the atrocities endured by those taken captive by communist forces, as well as the suffering

they endured on the infamous Death March which he himself survived. Communist North Korea invaded South Korea on June 25, 1950, starting the Korean War. Many people of different nationalities and professions were taken prisoner, including Fr Francis Canavan from Headford. Fr Francis had the opportunity to escape, but he decided to remain with Bishop Thomas Quinlan.

Fr Francis was born on February 15, 1915. He attended Headford National School (1922-1929) and St. Mary's College Galway (1929-1934) and was ordained a priest for the Columban Missionary Society in Dalgan Park, Shrule in 1940.

For the next nine years he ministered as a curate in the Galway diocese and in 1949 he was appointed a missionary to Korea.

Fr Francis died on December 6, 1950 as a result of the gruelling toll of the death march of more than 100 miles. The day of his death was coincidentally the feast day of St. Nicholas of Myra, patron saint of Galway Diocese, to whom he had great devotion.

On July 12 Fr Francis was honoured as Archbishop Neary, along with many parishioners and visiting priests including the Regional Director of the Columban Fathers in Korea, Fr. Donal O'Keeffe, launched the prayer card for the beatification of Fr. Francis Canavan and the other Korean martyrs.

Fr Francis' niece, Maura Stephenson travelled from England along with her daughter Zoe, to be present. Fr Francis' two nephews, the former Irish Ambassador to the Holy See, Gearoid O'Broin and Hugh Byron were regrettably unable to attend this historic occasion.



*This summer's Corpus Christi procession through the streets of Tuam*

# Competitive action with Connacht Wheelchair Hurling

**T**he Connacht GAA Wheelchair team played its first ever game on November 2nd, 2013 in the M. Donnelly GAA Wheelchair Hurling Inter-Provincial Championship, which was held in Athlone. Connacht were runners-up to Munster on that occasion.

The Connacht team also finished in second place in the M. Donnelly GAA Wheelchair Hurling Inter-Provincial League, which was held in Athenry, Belfast, Limerick and Athlone. The M. Donnelly All Ireland GAA Wheelchair Hurling Inter-Provincial Championship Finals will take place in Sligo on November 1st next.

Teams are six a side, consisting of two forwards, one midfielder, two defenders and one goalkeeper. There are three zones when playing the game: (a) attackers and defenders must stay in their appropriate zones; (b) midfielders can travel in both the attacking and defensive zones and (c) the goalkeepers are the only players allowed in the goalkeeping zones.

"I started playing Wheelchair Hurling a year ago and I've been hooked ever since. I enjoy the provincial side of it and representing Connacht.

"I find the competitive aspect of the game very satisfying. I look forward to competing in the rest of the Irish League and hopefully clinching the title from Munster! I'd like to thank the Connacht GAA Council and all the volunteers and coaches who have dedicated their time and it's great to hear the encouragement while I am playing.

"I would also like to thank the GAA for developing and promoting this sport as it gives a great opportunity for people with disabilities to play in a competitive team sport".

The members of the Connacht GAA Wheelchair Hurling team are: Aiden Hynes (Captain, Calry, Sligo); Tommy Fleming (Charlestown, Mayo); Stephen Melvin (Sligo); Shane Curran (Moycullen, Galway); Fergal Mohan (Frenchpark, Roscommon); David Tarpey (Ardrahan, Galway); Pat Carty

(Tourlestrane, Sligo); Peter Egan (Kilmovee, Mayo); Sarah Cregg (Frenchpark, Roscommon); Val Lenehan (Charlestown, Mayo) and Susan O'Flaherty Coleman (Portumna, Galway). The Connacht players have the use of sports wheelchairs thanks to Co. Mayo Sports Partnership.

The Connacht Wheelchair Hurling Coach is Adrian Hession and his assistant coaches are Cathal Cregg, Niamh Cregg, Ray McNamara, Tadhg Morley and Tim Hynes. John Hopkins is the Connacht GAA Wheelchair Hurling Co-ordinator.

On the development of the team, coach Adrian Hession said: "When we started out in June 2013 we didn't know what to expect. But we steadily grew as a team over the weeks and became a very competitive outfit in the Interprovincial Wheelchair Hurling Series.

"The players and coaches have shown great commitment over the past year – and have embraced this new GAA game with gusto".

**If you are interested in taking part or in finding out more about Wheelchair Hurling, you can contact Adrian Hession at 087-2450556.**



*Connacht's Peter Egan (Kilmovee, Mayo), Sara Cregg (Frenchpark, Roscommon), Aidan Hynes (Calry, Sligo), Stephen Melvin (Sligo), Shane Curran (Moycullen, Galway), Tom Fleming (Charlestown, Mayo), Pat Carty (Tourlestrane, Sligo) and Fergal Mahon (Frenchpark, Roscommon) who took part in the Interprovincial Wheelchair Hurling League into Belfast.*



*Team members, coaches and supporters of the Connacht GAA Wheelchair Hurling team at Round 4 of the M. Donnelly GAA Wheelchair Hurling Inter-Provincial League, which was held in Athlone I.T.*

# The call to Zambia and the response by Tuam

BY FR PADDY WILLIAMS

**F**r Larry Carr was an excellent emissary on behalf of the SMA, seeking to enrol diocesan priests to do a term with them on the Zambian Mission and he came to speak at the 1976 annual Tuam retreat for the priests of the diocese. He had a big reputation as a Louth County Senior Footballer – his county had won the All-Ireland in 1957. His football ability was matched by his eloquence and a number of his priest listeners were moved to volunteer.

Not all were released for different reasons, but four were to spend terms working in Ndola Diocese: Paddy Williams, Mick O'Malley, Paddy Costello and Michael Joyce, over a period of 10 years to 1986.

We were seen off at the airport by Liam Brady and Noel O'Regan (later Bishop) who was home on leave at the time. I remember wondering, when the plane touched down in Nairobi en route to Lusaka, if it was a foolhardy undertaking but I was quickly distracted by the needs of the local population.

I hadn't even the advantage of youthful enthusiasm as I was then 48 years of age. However the die was cast, there was no turning back.

Reassurance came with the reception I received at Ndola airport from the SMA team I was privileged to join, including Mick O'Shea who has written some books on the Missions, including 'The SMA in Zambia'.

The trend in the Copperbelt of Zambia in those days, as in many parts of Africa, was for the colonial ex-pats to live in the 'leafy' suburbs. The commercial heart of the town was largely run by traders of Indian origin. On the fringes were the high density townships with small two or three-room houses.

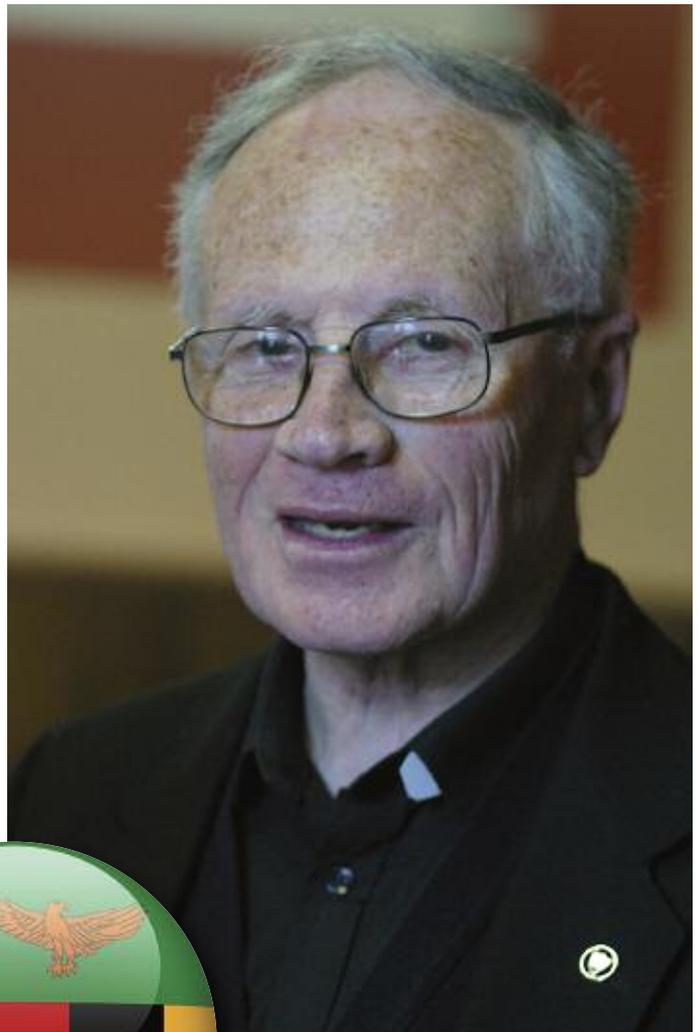
On their fringes again were the 'Shanty Towns', unplanned warrens of mud huts completely without sanitation.

I spent two terms of three years each there, engaged mostly in parish work, but also teaching religion in secondary schools in Ndola and Kitwe.

Mick O'Malley was more involved in development work, in addition to his parish work. In 1980 he was the main organiser of the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the setting up of Ndola Diocese.

Paddy Costello spent three happy years in parish work. He organised the building of a church in what had been an out-station in Ndola. Michael Joyce spent over four years there and did outstanding work in school building as well as parish work.

Archbishop Joseph Cunnane came to visit his priests in Zambia. Before he came, he wrote to ask what he might bring as he knew various commodities could be in short supply from time to time e.g.



soap. We asked him to bring cocoa, which was unavailable at the time.

He bought some tins of cocoa and emptied them into a plastic bag. Customs in Lusaka were suspicious of this brown powder, suspecting it might be a drug.

After some investigations the Archbishop was allowed to proceed.

Missionary outreach from the Irish Church, which had been valuable and considerable, began to dry up, owing to a gradual decline in the number of priests available. However, they had also made themselves redundant. There were now many native priests and a flourishing African Church.

# Abbeyknockmoy parish remembers St Bernard

OPEN AIR MASS ON KNOCKROE HILL ABBEYKNOCKMOY  
FEAST OF ST BERNARD 20TH AUGUST 2014



**P**ilgrims from the three parish areas of Abbeyknockmoy and beyond made their way to the slopes of Knockroe Hill and the Holy Well in glorious sunshine to celebrate the annual feast of St Bernard on August 20th.

Patron of the parish, St Bernard was a formidable monk and abbot of the Cistercian Order in France that founded a monastery locally, known as the Old Abbey in the 12th century. Bernard became widely known across Europe and was consulted by Popes and kings for his advice and wisdom.

The celebration of his feast day is an annual event and has relevance for modern day living. Pilgrims in search of deeper meaning of life come to pray and to respect the age-old tradition of professing their faith in public.

The spectacular view from the Holy Hill across the plains and pastures of Galway and Roscommon and the hills of Clare and Croagh Patrick evoke poetic images of a vision of Connacht in the thirteenth century.

The site and holy ground is beautifully decorated and cared for by the Finn family, landowners and neighbours. The open air Mass was concelebrated by Fr Joe O'Brien, Fr Seán Flynn – recently ordained – and Fr Micheál Mannion, a native of Monivea and fresh from duty on the Aran Islands.

Choir members from Brooklodge, Abbeyknockmoy and Monivea, under the direction of Annette Murray and Anna Maher, added joyous strains of music across the hill. Youth Ministry leaders Orla O'Brien and Patricia Kelly presented gifts at the Mass.

After the ceremonies, people began to queue around the Blessed Well for a refreshing drink of spring water and to take home a bottle. The Well is protected by a circular stone wall. The water is said to have curative powers for ailments of body and mind.

On the downward slope, the Youth group were treated to a barbecue prepared by the Pastoral Council, while others lingered on the hill in the company of neighbours, friends and visitors from as far away as up-state New York and France, relaxing in the quiet and peaceful atmosphere.



Ag freastal ar Chursa Gaeilge sa Ghaeltacht ar an gCeathru Rua i rith mí Meitheamh bhí, ar chúil: Fr Michael Brennan, PP Lettermore, Declan Lohan (Galway), Aidan Gallagher (Tuam), Fr Ciarán Blake (PP Carraroe), Gerard Quirke (Tuam), John O'Halloran (Galway); chun tosaigh: Niall Carroll (Galway), Michael King (Galway), Máire Ní Chualáin (Múinteoir).

# Men's Shed movement now catering for 6,000

BY PAT O'HORA

The idea of the 'Men's Shed' originated in Australia following a national conference on the theme of Men's Health in 1995. It was formalised as a movement in Australia in 2007.

The basic idea was to enrich social interaction in the local community and thereby increasing the quality of life for participants. It was to focus on men who were retired or unemployed.

Since 2007 the movement has found root outside Australia in countries like England, Scotland, Wales, Greece, Finland and latterly Ireland. It is estimated that Ireland now has up to 200 sheds with over 6,000 members.

In the greater Tuam area there are sheds in Headford, Glenamaddy and Dunmore, while Galway city has a number and there are moves afoot in Claregalway and Athenry to start more sheds.

The Tuam Shed grew out of an idea nurtured between the Tuam and District Mental Health Association and the Tuam Voluntary Force. The initial problem for any



group trying to start a shed is premises and the Tuam group were very fortunate to be gifted the use of the semi derelict ground floor of the Old C.B.S secondary school by the Parish.

There are the usual problems of insurance, funding streams, house rules, acquiring tools, coping with ongoing expenses (light, heat, power and materials).

But there is help to be had from the Shed movement itself and from agencies like Galway Rural Development and the County Council for groups who are contemplating

start up. The Credit Union and local traders have also been helpful and supportive.

As the movement grows it is seen to be delivering in the following areas: work, clinical support, education, recreation, and community and the Tuam Men's shed is covering many of these.

Finally, in order to avoid a swipe of the handbag from some militant feminist, the original clinical rationale for making the movement gender specific was it was felt that, whereas women are prepared to confide in one another on a face to face basis, men find it easier to talk to one another shoulder to shoulder.

But the good news is that the first Women's Shed has been founded in Ennis.

Curious to find out more? Drop into your local shed for a cuppa and see what they are at. You will be encouraged to join, and it is practically free. If you are not near a shed, Google Men's Sheds Ireland to find out more.

Lots of sheds, including Tuam, have Facebook pages that give an insight into their activities.



Daithi O Se gets in on the action with the Tuam Men's Shed group.

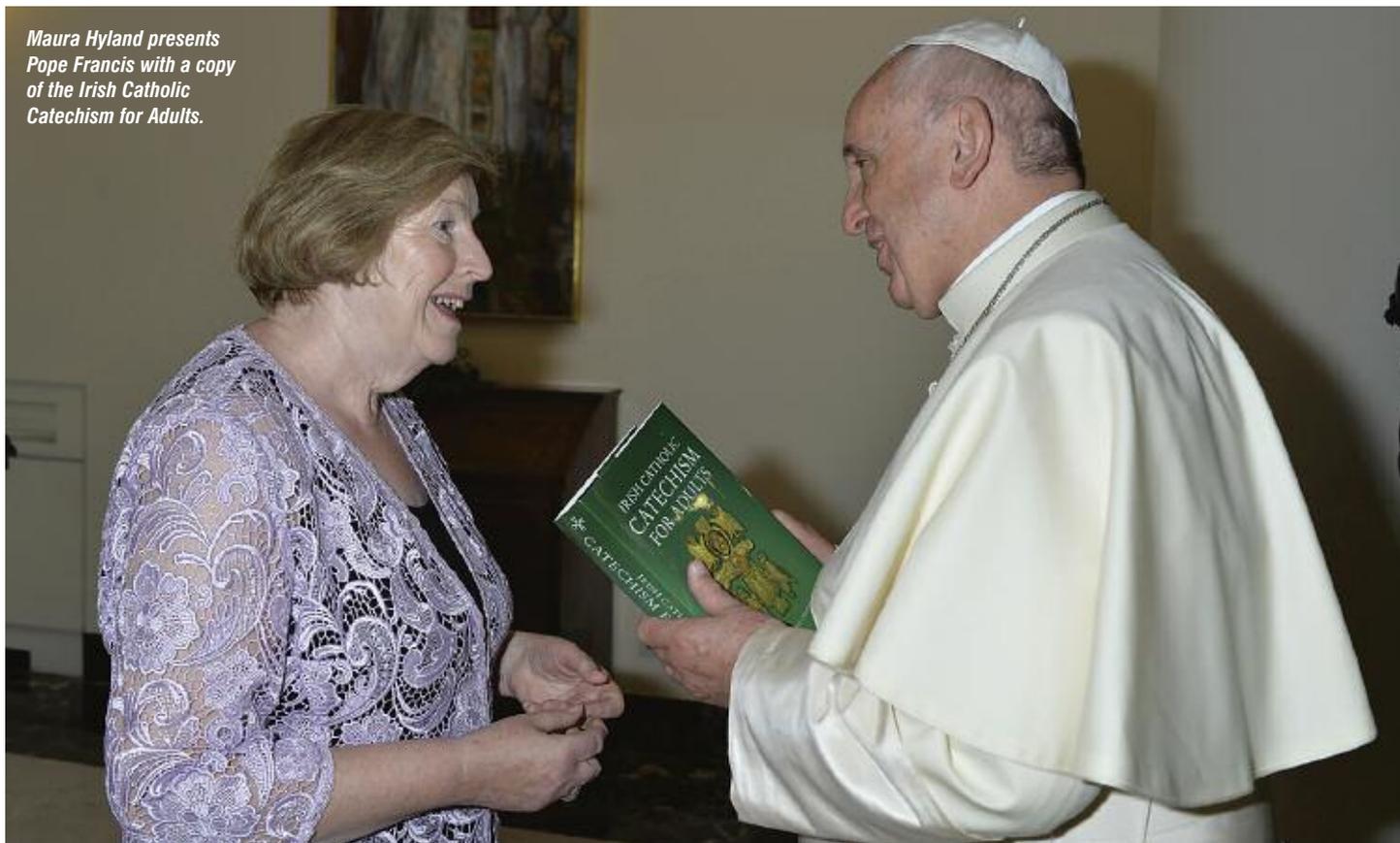


Shed head gardener, Frank Hession shares some produce from the garden with Fr Fintan Monaghan.

# Pope Francis receives Irish Catechism

BY MAURA HYLAND

Maura Hyland presents Pope Francis with a copy of the *Irish Catholic Catechism for Adults*.



I recently had the great privilege of presenting a copy of the *Irish Catholic Catechism for Adults* to Pope Francis. He was clearly pleased that the catechism had been published and he expressed his hope that it would be an instrument for adult faith formation on the island of Ireland.

So what is the *Irish Catholic Catechism for Adults* and where has it come from?

When he introduced the updated *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, St John Paul II encouraged the drafting of local catechisms in regions and countries around the world. He said, 'The Universal Catechism is meant to encourage and assist in the writing of new local catechisms, which take into account various situations and cultures, while carefully preserving the unity of faith and fidelity to Catholic doctrine' (Apostolic Constitution, *Fidei Depositum*, 1992).

The *Irish Catholic Catechism for Adults* is a response to this. In Ireland when we think of catechisms we usually think of the Maynooth Catechism, also known as the 'Green Catechism' because of the colour of its cover, which promoted rote learning and was written in a question and answer format. It was used almost exclusively in schools.

The *Irish Catholic Catechism for Adults* is

quite different. In it you will find the teachings of the Church presented in an easy to read format, under the following headings: *The Faith Professed*, which explores what we believe; *The Faith Celebrated*, which explores how we celebrate our faith; *The Faith Lived*, which focuses on morality and on how we live our

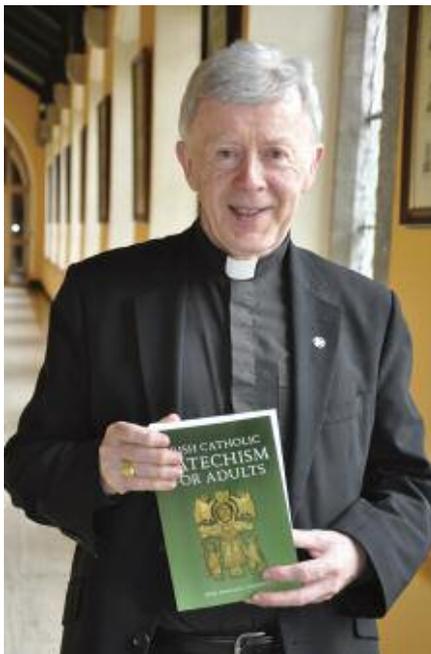
faith; and *The Faith Prayed*, which asks why we should pray and explores a number of different methods of prayer.

The *Irish Catholic Catechism for Adults* is ideal for use by adults who belong to an adult education or faith formation group. Each chapter begins with the life story of a person of faith, people from our own culture such as Evie Hone, Nano Nagle and Matt Talbot and people from the wider church such as St Augustine, St Thomas More and Frederic Ozanam.

These stories show what happens when people allow the faith of the Catholic Church to take shape in their lives. When we read them, we are challenged to consider what we can achieve when we are courageous enough to allow our faith to determine how we live. Each chapter ends with questions for group discussion and provides material for prayer and meditation.

The catechism is accompanied by a *Study Guide* which will help individuals or those leading groups to find their way through the catechism.

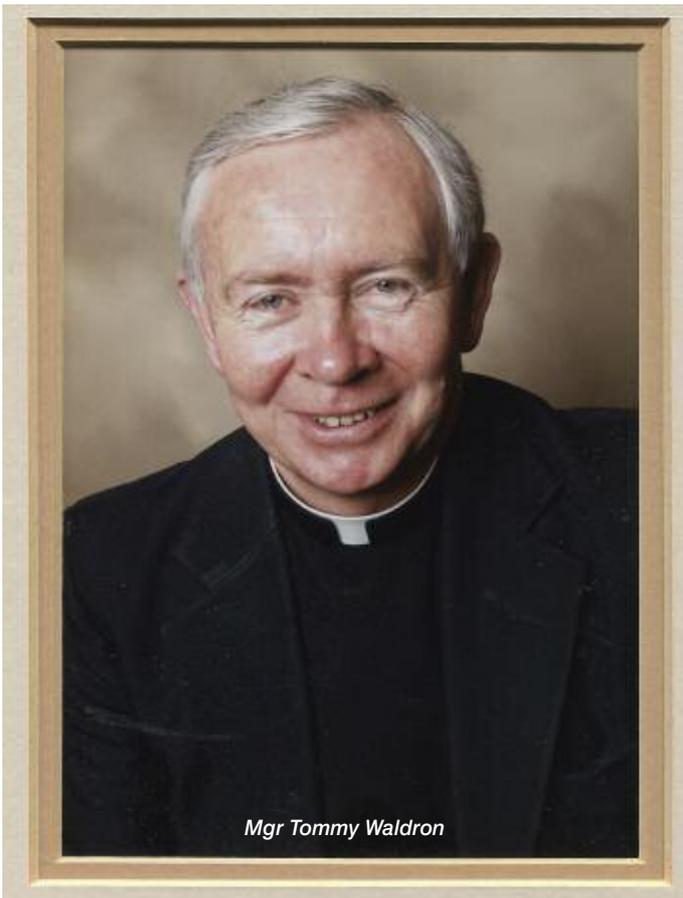
There is also a website [www.irishcatechism.ie](http://www.irishcatechism.ie) where you will find videos and other materials about the catechism and its content.



Archbishop Michael Neary at the launch of the *Irish Catholic Catechism for Adults* in June. Photo: Brenda Drumm

\*Maura Hyland is Director of Veritas Communications

# Earthing the Word: Selected writings from **The Furrow**, by *Thomas G Waldron*



*Mgr Tommy Waldron*

**M**onsignor Tommy Waldron was a very well known priest of the Archdiocese of Tuam, locally and nationally. A very gifted communicator, teacher, writer and radio presenter, he was considered one of the best preachers of his generation.

Born in Castlebar in 1929, Thomas Waldron was ordained to the priesthood in 1954. Excelling in English literature he received an MA in 1955 and became an outstanding teacher of English, History and French in St Jarlath's College Tuam, where he eventually became President. After St. Jarlath's, Mgr Tommy became Administrator in the Cathedral Parish and then Parish Priest of Claremorris until his untimely death in 1995.

Mgr Tommy had the unique ability to combine insights into biblical narrative with distilled wisdom of literature and down to earth stories of everyday life to bring the Word of God alive to listener and reader alike.

For many years Mgr Tommy was a regular contributor to *The Furrow*, a pastoral magazine founded by a Tuam Priest, Fr McGarry in 1950. Many of those articles are collected in a recent book, launched by Archbishop Michael Neary in Knock on Saturday, October 18.

Pilgrimage, Baptism, Marriage, Confessions, Christmas, the Sabbath, Death, Hope, Prayer, Journaling and many homilies for various Sundays of the liturgical calendar are reproduced and gathered in this attractive book.

"The biblical stories as presented by Tommy are our stories, about ourselves, our own apostasies, our battles and blessings. Holiness is not something hazy and elusive. It is rather something that is expressed in our struggles, our failings and rising again.

"Tommy's homilies ring with a note of intense pastoral care for those he addressed and they are filled with concrete and thoroughly recognisable situations and characters", Archbishop Neary said on the occasion of the launch.

As Professor Enda McDonagh says in his introduction to the book "May this collection of his writings remind his many friends and admirers how a gifted, sane and saintly man gave voice, in their darkness and his, to the true light."

This book is a treasure of a volume. It is well worth buying and might make a lovely Christmas gift for anyone interested in the big questions of literature, following Jesus Christ, human nature and the meaning of life.



*Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes*



*Ms. Anne Corcoran, Westport and Archbishop Neary.*

*"The Christian must be a luminous person, who brings light, who always gives light! ... A light that is not his or hers, but rather a gift from God, and a gift from Jesus. And we bring this light. If the Christian allows this light to be extinguished, his life no longer has meaning; he is a Christian by name only. It is God himself who gives us this light, and we offer it to others. Shining lamps! This is the Christian vocation".*

– Pope Francis

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Pastoral Council: Teresa Higgins

### PARTRY (BALLYOVEY)

Fr John Kenny, 094-9543013, frjohnkenny@yahoo.ie  
St Mary's, Partry: Naomh Muire, Tuar Mhic Éadaigh: Bunaun.  
Pastoral Council: John Kenny, 094-9543013

### ROUNDFORT, KILCOMMON & ROBEEN

Fr Michael Murphy, 094-9540934, 085-7345167, mike.murphy@gmit.ie  
Church of the Immaculate Conception, Roundfort; St Joseph's Church, Carras; Church of Our Lady of Sorrows, Robeen.  
Pastoral Council: Bridie McMahon

## PARISHES OF CASTLEBAR DEANERY

### CASTLEBAR

www.castlebar.ie/parish  
cbarpres@eircom.net  
Fr John Cosgrove, 094-9021274;  
Fr John Murray 094-9021844; Fr Seán Cunningham, 094-9021844, frseancunningham@gmail.com; Fr Eugene O'Boyle, Hospital Chaplin, 094-9021822;  
Fr John McCormack, Breaffy, 094-9022799.  
Church of the Holy Rosary, Castlebar;  
Church of St Aloysius, Breaffy;  
Church of St Patrick, Ballyheane.  
Pastoral Council: Breege Kelly

### BURRISCARRA-BALLINTUBBER-KILLAWALLA

www.ballintubberabbey.ie  
Fr Michael Farragher, Carnacon, 094-9360205; Fr Frank Fahey, Ballintubber, 094-9030934, 094-9030050, btubbabbey1@eircom.net.  
St Mary's, Carnacon; Holy Trinity Abbey, Ballintubber; St Patricks, Killawalla.  
Pastoral Group: 094-9360157.

### MAYO ABBEY

Fr Austin Fergus, 094-9365086, 087-2978598.  
Our Lady Queen of Peace & St Gerald, Mayo Abbey;  
Pastoral Council: Jarlath Duggan, 094-9360039

### KEELOGUES, BALLYVARY

Fr Peter Waldron, 094-9031009, epwal@eircom.net  
Church of St Joseph's, Keellogues

### PARKE, CRIMLIN (TURLOUGH)

Fr Michael Nohilly, 094-9031314.  
Church of the Holy Family, Parke; St Michael's Church, Crimlin  
Pastoral Council: Martin Bolger

### BALLA AND BELCARRA

Fr Denis Carney, 094-9365025, stcronansballa@eircom.net  
St Cronan's Balla: St Anne's Belcarrá:  
Pastoral Council: Claire Lally, 094-9360168

## PARISHES OF CLAREMORRIS DEANERY

### BEKAN

www.bekan-parish.ie  
Fr Brendan McGuinness, 094-9380203, brendanmcguinness@eircom.net.

St Margaret Mary Alacoque, Bekan; St Mary's Church, Logboy; St Therese's Church, Brickens.  
Pastoral Council: Rita Kelly

### BALLYHAUNIS, (ANNAGH)

www.ballyhaunislife.com  
Fr Stephen Farragher, 094-9630006, 087-9210305, stephenfarragher@gmail.com  
St Patrick's Church, Ballyhaunis.  
Pastoral Council: Michael Goulding

### BALLINDINE – IRISHTOWN (KILVINE)

Fr Martin O'Connor, 094-9364423, 087-2401297, kilvineparish@gmail.com  
St Joseph's Church, Ballindine; Church of Holy Family & St Oliver, Irishtown.  
Pastoral Council: John Daly 087-9060048

### KNOCK

www.knock-shrine.ie  
Fr Richard Gibbons, 094-9388100, info@knock-shrine.ie  
Our Lady's Shrine, Knock; Shanvaghara Church. Fr Patrick Burke 094-9388100, scoruiocht@yahoo.co.uk  
Pastoral Council: Sr Maud Murphy

### CROSSBOYNE

www.crossboyneparish.ie  
For administration purposes, c.f Fr Martin O'Connor, Ballindine. For pastoral care contact  
Fr James Quinn, Taugheen, 094-9362500, 087-2685288, frjquinn@gmail.com  
Church of the Sacred Heart, Crossboyne:  
St Michael's, Taugheen:  
Pastoral Council: Martha Walsh, 094-9362257

### CLAREMORRIS

Fr Peter Gannon, 094-9362477, stcolmansparish@eircom.net.  
St Colman's Church Claremorris: Our Lady's Church Barnacarroll  
Pastoral Council: Mary Egan

### AGHAMORE

Fr John Walsh, Aghamore, 094-9367024, 087-9968164, johnwalsh05@eircom.net;  
Fr James Kelly, Tooreen, 094-9649002, 086-8279113, frjameskelly@eircom.net  
St Joseph's, Aghamore; St Mary's Tooreen; St Patrick's Woodfield.  
Pastoral Council: Finola Lyons, 094-9367067

# PARISH DIRECTORY

## PARISHES OF CLIFDEN DEANERY

### INISBOFIN ISLAND

Inisbofin is currently administered from Claddaduff Church, parish of Clifden.

Priest in charge: **Fr Anthony Neville**, Clifden, 095-44668; Also **Fr James Ronayne**, Clifden, 095-21251. Parochial House, Inishbofin, 095-45802.  
Pastoral Council: Pat Coyne, 095-45834

### LETTERFRACK (BALLINAKILL)

**Fr Ronnie Boyle**, 095-41053, ballinakillparish@eircom.net  
Our Lady of the Wayside, Creeragh; St Joseph's, Letterfrack; Christ the King, Tullycross; Immaculate Conception, Ballinakill.  
Pastoral Council: Brendan Ridge

### CLIFDEN (OMEY & BALLINDOON)

**Fr James Ronayne**, Clifden, 095-21251, clifdenparish@eircom.net;  
**Fr Anthony Neville**, Claddaghduff, 095-44668.  
St Joseph's, Clifden: Kingstown: The Holy Family, Ballyconneely: Claddaghduff.  
Pastoral Council: Brendan O Scanail

### CÁRNA

**Athair Pdraic Standún**, Cárna, 095-32232, pstandun@eircom.net;  
**Athair Séamus Ó Dúill**, Cill Chiaráin, 095-33403, seamusoduill@eircom.net.  
Teampall Mhuire, Cárna; Teach Phobail N. Ciaráin.  
Coiste Tréadach: Seosamh MacDonncha

### ROUNDSTONE

**Fr Jarlath Heraty**, 095-35846, 087-2524446.  
Church of the Immaculate Conception, Ballinaduff: Cashel Church: Recess Church: Roundstone Church: Derryvoreeda Church.

### AN CHEATHRÚ RUA (AN CILLÍN, GARUMNA & LEITIRMEALLÁIN)

**Athair Ciarán Blake**, An Cheathrú Rua, 091-595452, blake.ciaran@gmail.com;  
**Athair Eamonn Ó Conghaile**, Tír na Fhia, Leitirmóir, 091-551133, gorumna\_1@eircom.net.  
Séipéal Mhic Dara; Áras Mhic Dara; Tír an Fhia; Séipéal Réalt na Mara, Leitirmealláin

## PARISHES OF DUNMORE DEANERY

### GLENAMADDY

www.glenamaddychurch.ie  
**Fr Paddy Mooney**, 094-9659017, 087-9035910, paddymooney@eircom.net.  
St Patrick's Church, Glenamaddy.  
Pastoral Council: Breda Keaveney

### DUNMORE

**Fr Fergal Cunnane**, 093-38124, newsletter@dunmoreparish.ie  
Church of Our Lady & St Nicholas, Dunmore; St Patrick's Church, Garrafrauns: Christ the King Church, Kiltelva.  
Pastoral Council: Kathleen Hannon.

### MILLTOWN

**Fr J J Cribbin**, 093-51609.  
St Joseph's, Milltown: St Patrick's, Ballyglass.  
Pastoral Council: Maureen McHugh, 093-51349

### KILKERRIN – CLONBERNE

**Fr Thomas Commins**, 094-9659212, 086-8272078, kilkerinparish@eircom.net  
St Joseph's, Kilkerrin: Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Clonberne.  
Pastoral Council: John Meehan 094-9659227.

### KILCONLY-KILBANNON

www.kilconly.com  
**Fr Michael Kenny**, 093-47613, 087-2408171, frmichael@eircom.net  
St Conleth's Kilconly: St Benin's, Kilbannon.  
Pastoral Council: Eilish Cunningham 087-9021570

### WILLIAMSTOWN (TEMPLETOWHER)

www.williamstowngalwayparish.com  
For administration and pastoral care c.f. **Fr Paddy Mooney**, Glenamaddy'  
Pastoral Council: Kathleen Heviken, 094-9643402

### BALLINLOUGH (KILTULLAGH)

**Fr Joseph Feeney**, 094-9640155, frjoefeene@eircom.net  
Church of The Immaculate Conception, Ballinlough: St Patrick's Church, Granlahan: St Patrick's Church, Clonfad.  
Pastoral Council: Sean Brennan 094-9646118

## PARISHES OF TUAM DEANERY

### MENLOUGH – SKEHANA (KILLASCOBE)

**Fr John O'Gorman**, 090-9684818.  
St Mary's, Menlough: St Mary's,

Skehana Pastoral Council: PJ Mitchell, 090-9684886

### KILLERERIN

**Fr Tod Nolan**, 093-49222, todnolan@gmail.com  
St Mary's Church, Killererin,  
Pastoral Council: Peter Greaney, 093-49161

### MOORE – CLONFAD

**Fr Michael Molloy**, 090-9673539, stmarysmoore@gmail.com.  
St Mary's, Moore: Clonfad Church.  
Pastoral Council: Michael Kelly

### MOUNTBELLEW/MOYLLOUGH

**Fr Pádraig O'Connor**, 090-9679235.  
St Mary's, Mountbellew: St Patrick's, Moylough, patrickaoc@eircom.net  
Pastoral Council: Maureen Meehan, 090-9679313

### ABBEYKNOCKMOY

**Fr Joseph O'Brien**, Abbeyknockmoy, 093-43510, 087-2408198, jobrienabbey@eircom.net;  
**Fr Enda Howley**, Monivea, 087-2765725, eannahowley@eircom.net  
St Bernard's, Abbeyknockmoy: Sacred Heart, Ryehill: Immaculate Conception, Brooklodge.  
Pastoral Council: Leo Kiely

### TUAM

www.tuamparish.com  
tuamparish@eircom.net  
**Fr Francis Mitchell**, 093-24250,  
**Fr Fr Seán Flynn**, 093-24250,  
**Fr Shane Sullivan**, 093-24250.  
Cathedral of the Assumption & St Jarlath: St Patrick's, Cortoon: Our Lady and St Jarlath, Lavally.  
Pastoral Council: Presbytery, Tuam, 093-24250

## PARISHES OF WESTPORT DEANERY

### CLARE ISLAND AND INISHTURK

**Fr Karl Burns**, Westport, 098-28871, karlburns07@gmail.com.  
Church of the Sacred Heart, Clare Island; Pastoral Council: Mary McCabe. St Columba's Church, Inishturk. Pastoral Council: Mary Catherine Heanue.

### AUGHAGOWER – CUSHLOUGH

**Fr Jackie Conroy**, 098-25057, 087-2408474.  
St Patrick's Church Aughagower: Church of the Sacred Heart, Cushlough  
Pastoral Council: Mary McTigue Duffy

### LOUISBURGH (KILGEEVER)

www.louisburghparish.ie  
**Fr Martin Long**, 098-66198, louisburghparish@eircom.net

St Patrick's, Louisburgh; Church of the Holy Family, Killeen.  
Pastoral Council: Elaine Duffy

### KILMEENA

**Fr Jim Walsh**, 098-41270.  
St Brendan's, Myna; Holy Family, Fahy 'for pastoral care. Contact c.f **Fr Charlie McDonnell**, Westport for administrative business  
Pastoral Council: Anne Dunne, 098-41350

### ISLANDEADY-GLENISLAND

www.islandeady.ie  
**Fr Pat Donnellan**, Islandeady, 094-9024125, 087-2311236, patd@anu.ie; St Patrick's Church, Islandeady: Holy Rosary Church, Glenisland.  
Pastoral Council: Bernie Joyce

### NEWPORT / MULRANNY / TIERNOUR

**Fr Declan Carroll**, 098-41123, burrischoolparish@gmail.com.  
St Brendan's Tiernour: St Patrick's Newport: Church of Immaculate Conception, Mulranny.  
Pastoral Council: Margaret O Malley

### ACHILL

parishcentre@iolfree.ie  
**Fr Michael Gormally**, Achill Sound, 098-45288; **Fr Francis McGrath**, Achill Sound, 098-45109;  
Church of Mary Immaculate, Achill Sound; St Joseph's Church, Bunnacurry; The Queen of the Valley Church, The Valley; Church of Our Lady, Queen of the Universe and Christ the King, Currane; Church of St Columba, Belfarsad; The Church of the Sacred Heart Derreens; The Church of Our Lady and All Saint, Dooga; St Patrick's Church, Pollagh; Our Lady of the Assumption, Dookinella.

### WESTPORT (AUGHAVAL) & CLARE ISLAND

www.westportparish.ie  
stmaryschurchwestport@eircom.net  
**Fr Charlie McDonnell**, frchaz@gmail.com  
**Fr Karl Burns** Westport, 098-28871, karlburns07@gmail.com;  
**Fr Patrick Gill**, Lecanvey, 098-64808.  
St Mary's, Westport; St Mary's, Drummin; St Patrick's, Lecanvey; St Patrick's Oratory, Croagh Patrick.  
Pastoral Council: Ann Marie Campion

# PUZZLE PAGE

## EASY

8	6			4		7	2	
1					2	4	8	
	4		8					
3			5					7
4	2	6				5	9	3
7					3			8
					5		6	
	7	3	2					4
	5	9		3			7	2

## MEDIUM

	1	2		3	9		5	
				2	8			
	8		6					
8	2				3	7		
4		5				8		1
		7	8				2	5
					5		6	
				3		6		
	3		1	8		4	9	

## HARD

		6						7
1				3		5		
		2		5				
				7	5	3	8	
	7		6	2	3		9	
	6	3	1	4				
				9		8		
				7		6		
								1
3							2	

## GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

- 1 What is Ramadan?
- 2 What name is given to a female swan?
- 3 In which religion is Shiva a central figure?
- 4 What is the world's second largest French-speaking city?
- 5 Who was the king of gods in ancient Greek mythology?
- 6 In what TV show would you find The Woolpack pub?
- 7 Who was the top goal-scorer in the 1990 FIFA World Cup finals?
- 8 What is the unit of currency in Pakistan?
- 9 Which river runs through Washington DC?
- 10 How many keys are there on a standard piano?

## WORDSEARCH

Find the 22 mountains in Connacht

C	G	S	W	E	L	R	U	C	J	D	N	Q	H
R	X	N	Y	N	E	O	X	J	R	W	E	I	M
O	O	L	Z	A	E	D	Y	M	O	H	B	B	A
A	E	K	Z	E	H	U	R	A	H	G	L	D	U
G	R	N	E	R	S	E	F	U	M	Y	U	A	M
H	R	O	N	V	A	A	F	M	N	R	B	R	T
P	I	C	N	A	N	F	E	T	N	T	N	T	U
A	S	K	I	K	S	E	R	I	R	E	R	R	
T	B	M	H	C	C	O	H	A	B	A	B	Y	K
R	E	O	P	A	O	W	S	S	T	P	E	D	S
I	G	R	E	L	N	B	E	N	B	A	U	N	C
C	I	E	N	T	K	K	V	A	S	Y	J	P	H
K	G	S	L	I	E	V	E	M	O	R	E	X	T
F	A	B	M	R	O	G	P	N	E	B	H	A	V

- |                |            |             |            |
|----------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| Croaghau       | Dartry     | Lackavrea   | Maumtrasna |
| Slievemore     | Benbulbin  | Mweelrea    | Sheeffry   |
| Ben Gorm       | Truskmore  | Nephin      | Benbaun    |
| Croagh Patrick | Knocknaree | Ox          | Errisbeg   |
| Knockmore      | Maumturks  | Knocknashee |            |
| Curlews        | BinnMhor   | Partry      |            |

## Just for fun

Can you identify these four places which are located somewhere in the Tuam archdiocese?  
Answers in the winter edition of New Dawn.



The four places that appeared in Edition 8 of New Dawn were, from top to bottom: Ballinafad Church; St Mary's Church, Westport; St Joseph's Church, Leenane, Roundstone Church.

Answers to General Knowledge questions  
1 The Islamic Holy month  
2 Pen  
3 Hinduism  
4 Montreal in Canada  
5 Zeus  
6 Emmerdale

7 Toto Schillaci  
8 The Rupree  
9 The Potomac  
10 88